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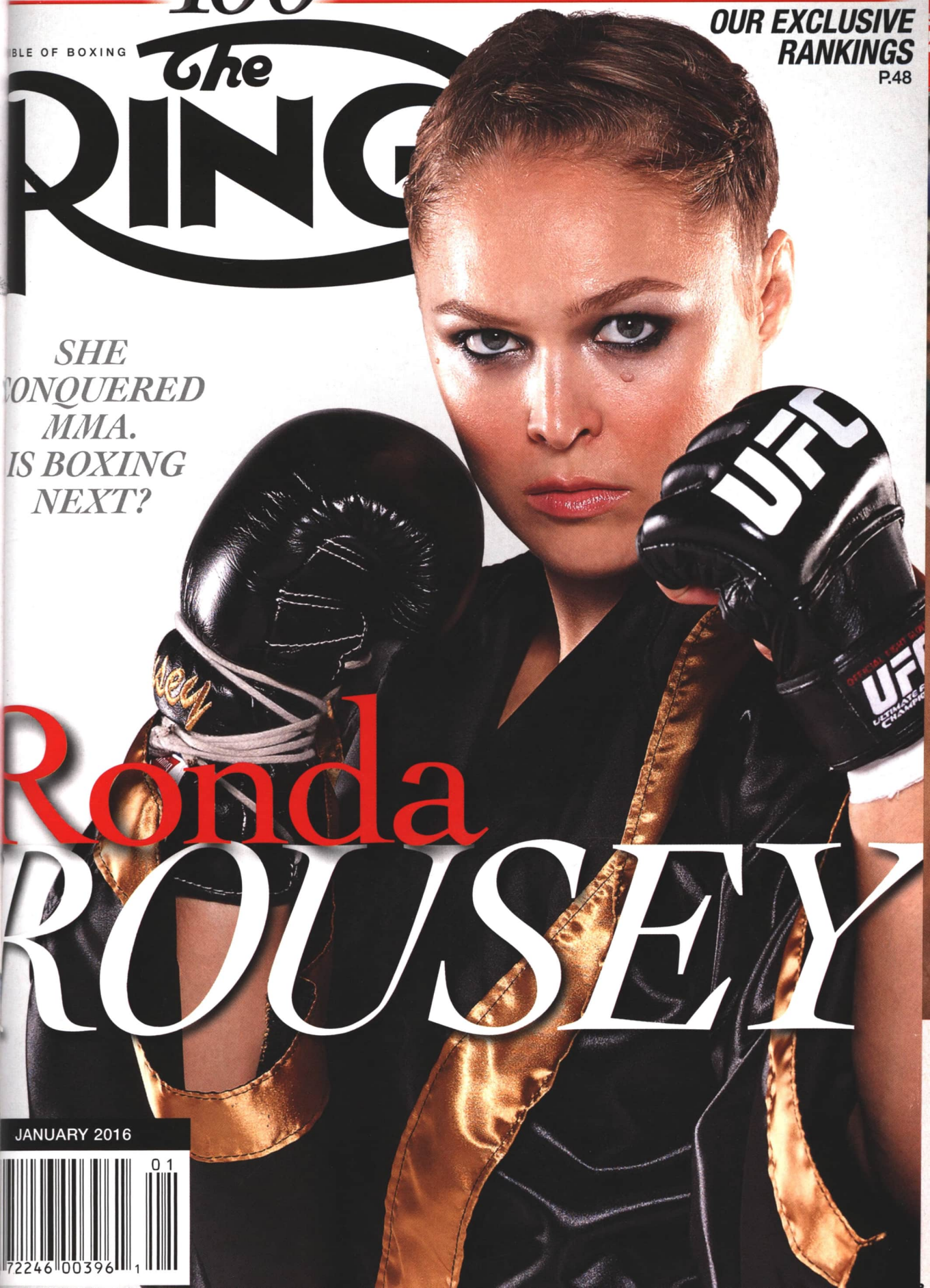
P.48

SHE CONQUERED MMA. IS BOXING NEXT?



Ronda ROUSEY

JANUARY 2016

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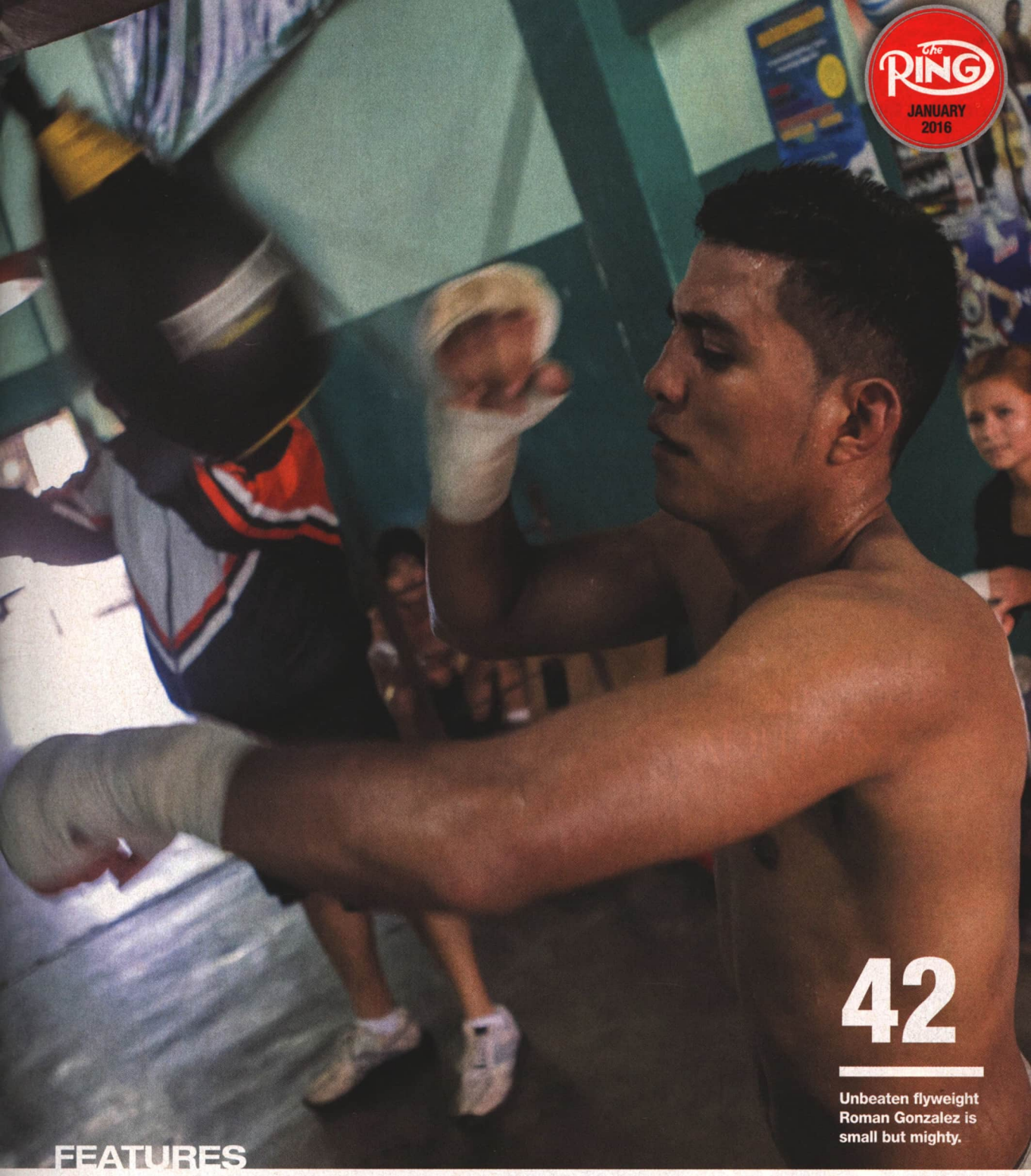

The RING
JANUARY 2016

42

Unbeaten flyweight Roman Gonzalez is small but mighty.

FEATURES

COVER STORY
34 MMADNESS
THE WORLD IS GOING CRAZY OVER RONDA ROUSEY
By Gary Andrew Poole

42 NEW P4P KING
ROMAN GONZALEZ REPLACES FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
By Norm Frauenheim

48 RING 100
OUR ANNUAL LIST OF THE WORLD'S BEST FIGHTERS
By David Greisman

74 COTTO VS. ALVAREZ
A LOOK BACK AT THE BEST PERFORMANCES OF THEIR CAREERS
By Michael Rosenthal

78 SORRY SWANSONG
MAYWEATHER GOES OUT QUIETLY VS. BERTO

82 GOLOVKIN VS. LEMIEUX
A NIGHT OF POUND-FOR-POUND DOMINANCE
By Michael Rosenthal

INT1 OCON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

COVER PHOTO BY ERIC WILLIAMS

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE

8 OPENING SHOT

10 COME OUT WRITING

13 ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES

16 BEST I FACED: MICHAEL SPINKS
By Anson Wainwright

18 READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman

20 JABS AND STRAIGHT WRITES
By Thomas Hauser

22 OUTSIDE THE ROPES *By Brian Harty*

24 RING IQ *By Bernard Hopkins*

26 RING RATINGS PACKAGE

84 LETTERS FROM EUROPE
By Gareth A Davies

86 DOUGIE'S MAILBAG *By Doug Fischer*

88 NEW FACES: JACK CATTERALL
By Tom Gray

90 WOMEN'S BOXING *By Thomas Gerbasi*

93 RINGSIDE REPORTS
By Norm Frauenheim

96 COMING UP

97 FROM THE ARCHIVE

98 AT THE FIGHTS

AT RINGTV.COM

MARCIANO'S FINAL FIGHT
A LOOK BACK ON HIS MEETING WITH MOORE
GO TO: http://bit.do/marciano-moore

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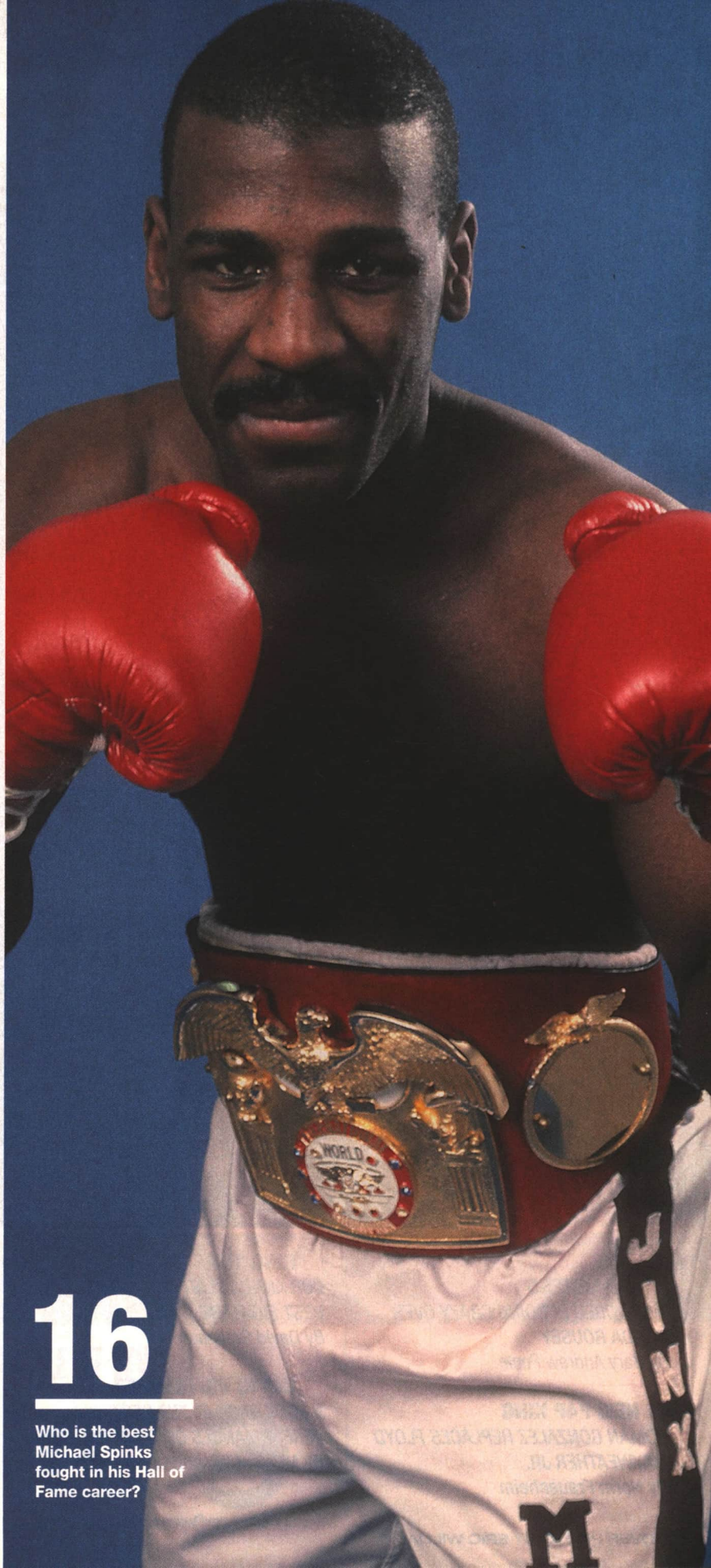

16

Who is the best Michael Spinks fought in his Hall of Fame career?

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THE AMBASSADOR

You will have noticed something unusual by now: MMA star Ronda Rousey is on the cover of THE RING Magazine.

That undoubtedly will have raised the eyebrows of some boxing purists. The editors understand if you're feeling uneasy. Others, perhaps those who enjoy both boxing and MMA, will embrace it immediately.

Either way, please consider a few things.

One of our goals is to appeal to as wide an audience as possible while maintaining robust coverage of our sport. MMA fans are fight fans. Our hope is that by featuring their biggest star – and leaving the door open to more MMA coverage – we'll not only provide a fresh perspective on their sport but also attract them to ours.

As you know, Rousey is the dominant force in the UFC, the leading MMA organization. Her ability to force her opponents to submit within seconds has become legendary and earned her fans worldwide.

As you might not know, Rousey wants to box. Her martial art is judo but she's fascinated with striking, one reason she spends the bulk of training these days in Los Angeles working on developing her boxing skills.

Imagine Rousey – arguably the most popular fighter in the world – as a boxer. She would draw unprecedented attention to women's boxing, which is generally overlooked, and provide a jolt for the sport in general.

It could happen. As she has stated, her goal is to become the best fighter in the world, not just the best in the UFC.

And, as you'll read in contributor Gary Andrew Poole's story on Rousey in this issue, she has a compelling personal story that we believe will touch everyone – from youth swimmer to judo champion (as her mother was) to a difficult post-judo period (including heavy drinking) to MMA stardom.

She's also outspoken, which adds to her appeal. For example, her heated back-and-forth jabs with boxing's biggest star – Floyd Mayweather Jr. – have made headlines everywhere.

Rousey's most enduring line came on the red carpet after she won the ESPY for 2015 Fighter of the Year. "I wonder how Floyd feels being beat by a woman for once," she said, referring to Mayweather's convictions for domestic abuse.

Mayweather has never been hit by a punch as hard as that one. It will go down as one of the most memorable quotes from an athlete in recent years.

And, finally, there might be a role Rousey can play that hasn't been discussed: that of ambassador.

I think it's a stretch to say boxing and MMA are at war – although it feels like that sometimes – but there is a rivalry, as fans are fiercely loyal to their own sport. Rousey could be the one who bridges the two, perhaps demonstrating that they not only can coexist but also feed off one another. After all, the overall fanbase of combat sports is very large.

And, who knows, maybe her appearance on the cover of a boxing magazine will contribute somehow toward that end.

The RING

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thering@emailcustomerservice.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
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Carta Vieja
WBC

Anselmo Moreno (left) looked sharp but lost a split decision to bantamweight titleholder Shinsuke Yamanaka on Sept. 22 in Tokyo.

KOKI NAGAHAMA/GETTY IMAGES

COME OUT WRITING

ANTI-WILDER

The world of boxing is full of alphabet belts and so-called "world champions," the loudest and most hyped being WBC heavyweight titleholder Deontay Wilder. He is proof of what is going wrong in boxing. A 29-year-old raw talent who hasn't fought *anybody* – to be clear, Bermane Stiverne wasn't a legitimate champion himself – is being presented as the man who owns one of the richest prizes in sports. That the "Bronze Bomber" calls himself the "legitimate heavyweight champion" just because he owns a strap is ridiculous, as the whole world outside of Alabama (including THE RING) knows Wladimir Klitschko is the man to beat in the division.

Martin Armbruster
Cologne, Germany

PRO-WILDER

Deontay Wilder improved leaps and bounds from his fight against Eric Molina in June to the Johann Duhaupas tussle in September. I saw a stiffer jab and more head movement. Wilder also stayed calm in spite of the pressure of fighting in front of the hometown crowd and a badly swollen left eye. I'm impressed that he adds a new wrinkle each time out and doesn't seem to want to rest on past accomplishments and his heavy hands. Give credit as well to Mark Breland, who does a great job training Wilder and giving sound advice between rounds. Wladimir Klitschko would be wise to face the "Bronze Bomber" sooner rather than later.

Al Tuttle
Blackshear, Ga.

BRADLEY OVER KHAN

Why is Amir Khan ranked higher than Tim Bradley in your welterweight Top 10? Khan has been in soft ever since he got KO'd by Danny Garcia. He has purposely avoided anyone with a solid left hook since Julio Diaz knocked him down. Diaz was an old, blown-up lightweight. Khan's biggest wins were against Devon Alexander, who had lost his title and didn't look good against Jesus Soto Karass, and Luis Collazo. Bradley has wins over Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez. He lost to Pacquiao in the rematch but he should have gotten the nod over a highly ranked Diego Chaves, and then defeated junior welterweight standout Jessie Vargas. Bradley has tested himself at welterweight. Khan can't say the same. We should value Bradley's strength of schedule over Khan's softer winning streak. You gave Manny Pacquiao that luxury by placing him above Khan and Bradley even though he clearly lost in his last bout but gave him credit because of who he lost to.

Duke Pahulu
San Bruno, Calif.

147-POUND HEAVEN

Now that the king (Floyd Mayweather Jr.) has retired we are left with a hugely exciting welterweight division and I for one am very excited about it. I'm a big "Money" fan but now that he's gone maybe the fighters will stop chasing a huge payday against him and concentrate on establishing themselves as the best in the division. This has to be the most talent-filled division in boxing at the moment. Any of the Top 10 in the RING Ratings could beat the others. With the major alphabet belts fractured now and the RING Magazine title up for grabs, it's going to be interesting to see who emerges as the bona fide heir to the throne. Does Pacman have enough left to once more climb the mountain? Will the super-talented Kell Brook or Keith Thurman take over? Or will former champions Tim Bradley, Amir Khan, Danny Garcia or Shawn Porter stake their claims? It's hard for me to pick the best of this division because of the fighters in it but I can't wait to watch and find out who is the new king.

James Lilley
Swansea, U.K.

COMPUTER NONSENSE?

CompuBox is a fraud. It is two guys sitting at ringside watching the fight and trying to count the punches landed and missed by pushing four buttons on a keypad in real time. So to sum it up: One single viewing with the naked eye from a difficult angle, no slow-motion replay and no review or recount afterward. No one can accurately count punches like that. We've all sat at ringside, formed a clear impression of what happened in a fight and later been amazed when rewatching it on TV – with the benefit of slow motion, better angles and no obstruction by the referee or the ring posts – just how wrong we had got it the first time. It would be easily doable to provide accurate and reliable punch stats by analyzing fights in slow motion afterward and counting the punches; but that would not satisfy the networks' craving for instant, real-time "punch stats" to feed to their viewers, who are duped by CompuBox's use of misleading words like "computerized" (implying "not subject to human error") and "statistics" (implying verification and accuracy).

Pierre Burger
Johannesburg, South Africa

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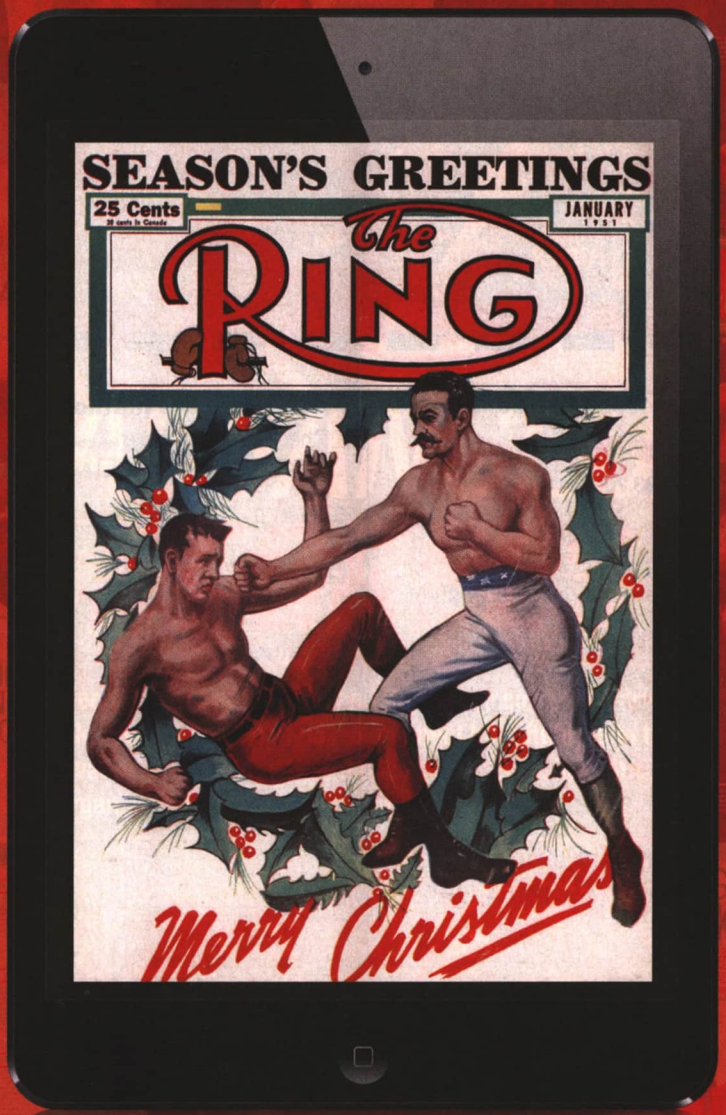

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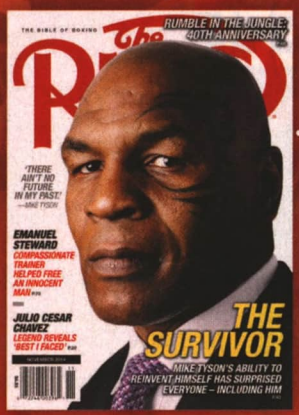

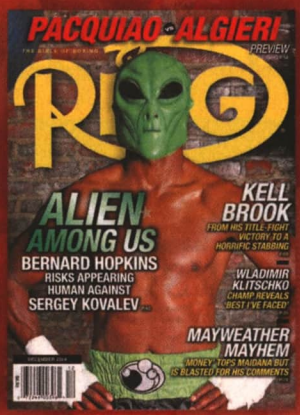

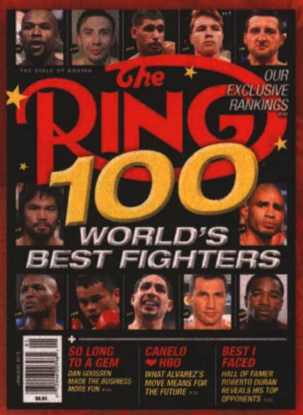

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ADVANCED DEGREES

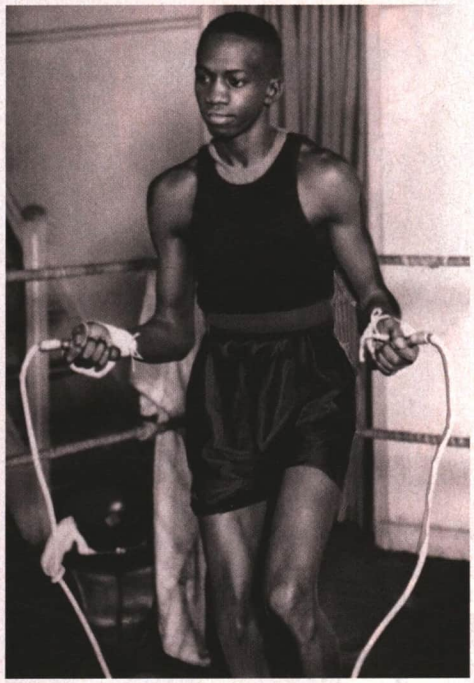
Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their more contemporary counterparts. This month, with the Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez fight in mind, we connect both fighters to their countrymen in the classic Wilfredo Gomez-Salvador Sanchez, Puerto Rico vs. Mexico matchup. And, with help from Advanced Degrees devotee Gregg Morgan, we do it in only four steps each.

WILFREDO GOMEZ fought
ROCKY LOCKRIDGE, who fought
SHARMBA MITCHELL, who fought
LOVEMORE NDOU, who fought
MIGUEL COTTO

SALVADOR SANCHEZ fought
AZUMAH NELSON, who fought
GENARO HERNANDEZ, who fought
FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR., who fought
CANELO ALVAREZ

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

This month: Roman Gonzalez of Nicaragua, THE RING's new pound-for-pound king, certainly isn't the first star from Central America. Here is a look at 10 prominent former world titleholders from that region (in chronological order).



1. **PANAMA AL BROWN,** Panama (1922-42)*
2. **ISMAEL LAGUNA,** Panama (1960-71)*
3. **ERNESTO MARCEL,** Panama (1966-74)
4. **ROBERTO DURAN,** Panama (1968-2001)*
5. **ALEXIS ARGUELLO,** Nicaragua (1968-95)*
6. **EUSEBIO PEDROZA,** Panama (1973-92)*
7. **HILARIO ZAPATA,** Panama (1977-93)
8. **VERNO PHILLIPS,** Belize (1988-2008)
9. **RICARDO MAYORGA,** Nicaragua (1993-present)
10. **ANSELMO MORENO,** Panama (2002-present)

Five more: Celestino Caballero, Panama; Victor Cordoba, Panama; Luis Ibarra, Panama; Guillermo Jones, Panama; Rosendo Alvarez, Nicaragua.

* In the International Boxing Hall of Fame

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

1 **BADOU JACK** SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER ★ 2 **FERNANDO MONTIEL** FEATHERWEIGHT CONTENDER
3 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** STRAWWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

FIGHTER	MUSIC	CAR	FOOD:	TATTOOS	ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING	MOVIE	VIDEO GAME
1.	"Reggae."	"Right now I'm driving a 2014 Dodge Charger. My dream car is a Bugatti. Floyd (Mayweather Jr.) doesn't let me drive his but I've been in a Ferrari with him."	"I like Gambian food, Indian food. I like Middle Eastern food. It is very hard to get it in Las Vegas. My favorite is domoda; it's peanut butter sauce with tomatoes and white rice. It's not that healthy so I can't eat it (before a) fight."	"No tattoos. I'm a Muslim, I don't believe in that. I like to be clean."	"I like **Cristiano Ronaldo** and Zlatan Ibrahimovic."	"'A Bronx Tale,' it's one of my favorites. I like old school movies from the '80s and '90s."	"I don't play many but when I was young I played 'Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!!'"
2.	"I like Banda el Recodo and Luis Miguel. He is like the Mexican Frank Sinatra."	"I drive a Mustang. I'd like a **Bentley** or a Ferrari."	"**Mexican beans** and seafood."	"I have four tattoos. I have two (wrapped) hands facing each other. … I have 'father, son and spirit' ... and an angel and a heart for my son. His name is Angel."	"Carl Lewis the sprinter, Rickey Henderson the baseball player and Michael Jordan."	"'Rocky' and 'Men of Honor.'"	"Sometimes with my son, we play 'Street Fighter.'"
3.	"Any song of Whitney Houston."	"My dream car is a Volvo."	"Sushi and BBQ."	"None."	"Nobody really. However, I love rugby and billiards."	"I like **Charlie Chaplin's** films."	"None."

— **Anson Wainwright**

BROWN: ARCHIVE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; TAKAYAMA: JIJI PRESS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MAYWEATHER: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

By **Michael Rosenthal**

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

GOOD

Award-winning journalist Thomas Hauser recently wrote an article for sbnation.com entitled "Can Boxing Trust USADA?" referring to the organization that conducted drug testing for the May 2 Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight. The issue that stood out was an IV administered to Mayweather after the weigh-in on May 1. He reportedly took saline with vitamins because of what he said was dehydration. Those substances are legal but the IV isn't – at least not in the amount he received – in part because it can mask illegal doping. Mayweather requested and received a therapeutic use exemption from USADA to be in compliance. The problem was that USADA granted the TUE 19 days after the fact even though a collection officer reportedly OK'd the IV before it was administered. And USADA didn't inform the Nevada State Athletic Commission until the TUE was granted. Those are among the reasons Hauser wrote the article. USADA fired back by issuing a detailed rebuttal. Among its key contentions: It knew beforehand that Mayweather would receive the IV and he received the necessary TUE. Questions remain, though. Why did it take 19 days? Are we certain Mayweather was dehydrated? Are we certain he took saline and vitamins? I could go on. The point is this: Such questions as these – and such articles as Hauser's – are imperative if we are to have a clean sport. He should be applauded.

BAD

The Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Andre Berto fight reportedly did between 400,000 and 550,000 pay-per-view buys, the worst performance by Mayweather in a decade and a bad day for boxing. How are we to interpret those numbers? The obvious assumption is that the disappointment of the Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight combined with the selection of the limited Berto as the opponent alienated potential viewers. That almost certainly played a role. Another possible factor is this: People are simply tired of Mayweather and ready to move on. The I'm-the-best-ever shtick is getting old. His fighting style, while effective, isn't everyone's cup of tea. And there are so many talented and exciting young fighters waiting in the wings, fighters the fans are ready to embrace. That's the good news. The next generation of pay-per-view fighters – Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez – took part in PPV fights in October and November, respectively. They will not have done the numbers Mayweather put up at his best because they're just getting started but it's refreshing to see new faces headlining such high-profile cards. And, in time, there is reason to believe they and other young fighters will capably carry the sport.

WORSE

The death of any fighter from punishment he or she incurs in the ring is devastating and we lost two in such a manner recently, Mzwanele Kompolo of South Africa and Davey Browne Jr. of Australia. All we can do is mourn and take every precaution to prevent such tragedies from happening in the future, although we know that death is a possibility going into every bout in spite of our efforts. The Australian Medical Association wants to go a step further: It has joined some other such organizations in advocating that the sport be banned because of the inherent dangers. That sentiment is understandable, particularly as it followed the loss of Browne. It comes from compassion and, some would argue, common sense. However, I don't believe combat sports should be banned for one overriding reason: free choice. These are primarily adults who understand the risks and are willing to take them in pursuit of their dreams, just as race car drivers, rock climbers and athletes in other dangerous sports do. Who are we to tell them what they can or cannot do if no one else is in danger? Boxing isn't bull-fighting or cock fighting, "sports" in which the animals are forced to fight – and die. That, in my opinion, should not be allowed. We shouldn't stand in the way of men or women who choose boxing, though, even if it makes us uneasy.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

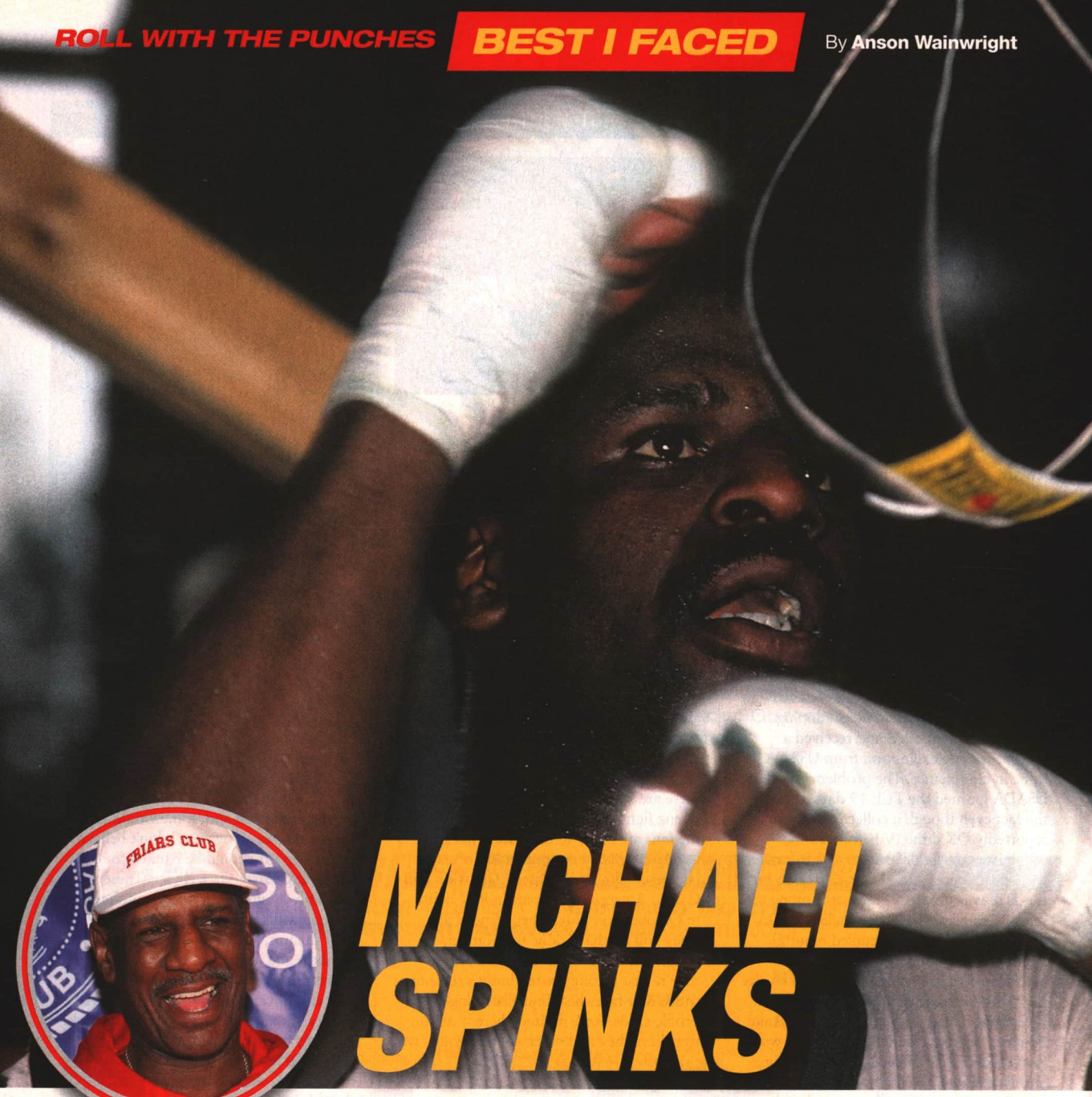
Who is the best of the youngest stars? We asked: **Which of these under-25 fighters has the brightest future?** Here is how you responded.

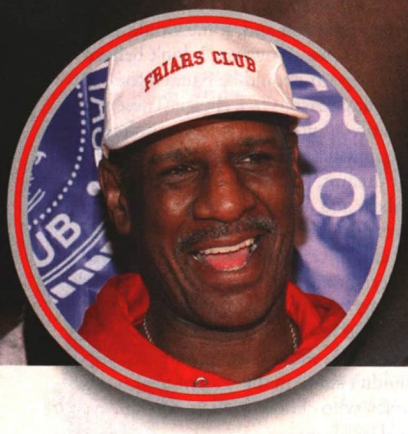
THE PERCENTAGES:

36.30	FELIX VERDEJO
19.84	AMIR IMAM
13.87	DIEGO DE LA HOYA
7.40	JOSEPH PARKER
7.01	OSCAR VALDEZ
4.80	JASON QUIGLEY
4.07	JACK CATTERALL
3.28	JESSE MAGDALENO
2.94	JOSEPH DIAZ JR.
0.49	JOET GONZALEZ

Note: 2,041 readers voted

By Anson Wainwright





MICHAEL SPINKS

Michael Spinks was one of the greatest light heavyweights of all time yet is best remembered for his brief run as a heavyweight and one horrific defeat.

Spinks and older brother Leon were among the brightest stars of the star-studded 1976 U.S. Olympic team, respectively winning the middleweight and light heavyweight gold medals in the Montreal Games.

Leon famously went on to take the heavyweight title from Muhammad Ali in his eighth fight – and lose to Ali in his ninth.

The younger Spinks went undefeated against the best light heavyweights of his day. He outpointed Eddie Mustafa Muhammad to win a version of the title (adding two more belts later) and successfully defended it 10 times to establish Hall of Fame credentials.

But he was hardly finished.

In his first fight after vacating the light heavyweight titles, he outpointed Hall of Famer Larry Holmes to win the heavyweight championship in THE RING Magazine's 1985 Upset of the Year. Then he did it again, outpointing Holmes seven months later.

"The second time wasn't as good as the first time but I still think I won," Spinks told THE RING recently.

Spinks stopped relative unknown Steffen Tangstad in four rounds in 1986 before knocking out Gerry Cooney in the fifth round the following year, his most spectacular victory as a heavyweight.

Then it all fell apart.

Spinks had the misfortune of intersecting with Mike Tyson when "Iron Mike" was at his fearsome best, in 1988. The result wasn't pretty. Spinks lasted only 91 seconds in

Michael Spinks' most important triumphs were over Larry Holmes (above left).

what many believe was Tyson's most impressive victory.

Spinks never fought again.

"I knew I had a tough fight on my hands and tried to get through it as best I could and I came up short," Spinks said. "It wasn't a setback in my mental state of mind because that's the game we play; we win some, we lose some."

Obviously, that was Spinks' worst moment in boxing. His best?

"I got a couple at light heavy and heavy. Winning the heavyweight crown was the ultimate prize in all of sports, so that had to be it," he said.

Today, Spinks, 59, is no longer connected to boxing but is enjoying the fruits of his labor.

"I do pretty much what I want," said Spinks, who entered the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1994. "That's what I worked for, so whenever I did retire I wanted to have enough money to do exactly what I want. I'm raising children. I have three children so I'm trying to be the best father I can with them and I'm having a good time."

Spinks agreed to speak about the best fighters he fought in 10 categories.

FASTEST HANDS

Mike Tyson: He had good hand speed. That was one of his biggest assets. He had power and hand speed and that was hard to beat.

FASTEST FEET

Tyson: He knew how to get in real fast. That was one of his strengths too. He'd slide up on you real quick and get in the punches.

BEST CHIN

Luis Rodriguez: I fought him in my second pro fight, in St. Louis, and I hit him with everything and he kept hitting me back (laughs) and I was like, "Damn! Am I hitting hard enough?"

STRONGEST

Tyson: He was very strong. I don't know what made him so strong.

SMARTEST

Larry Holmes: Holmes was one of the smartest because he was very hard to hit, had a real wicked defense where you'd try to hit him, he'd throw his hands out and pull you to the side. So it was very hard to hit him.

BEST JAB

Holmes: Nobody outjabbed me. I knew just how to put the right pepper on it, to make it real fast and bring it right back. So I think I had the best jab of all the guys I fought. Larry Holmes had a good jab but he didn't land it. He didn't use it on me. My jab was working on him more than his jab on me and I won, two times.

BEST PUNCHER

Tyson: Oh, Mike Tyson, most definitely the biggest puncher I ever fought.

BEST DEFENSE

Dwight Muhammad Qawi: Maybe Dwight. He was so close to the ground (at 5 feet 5 inches). When he bobbed and weaved, it was kind of hard to hit him. I attacked his body, shoulder, chest.

BEST OVERALL SKILLS

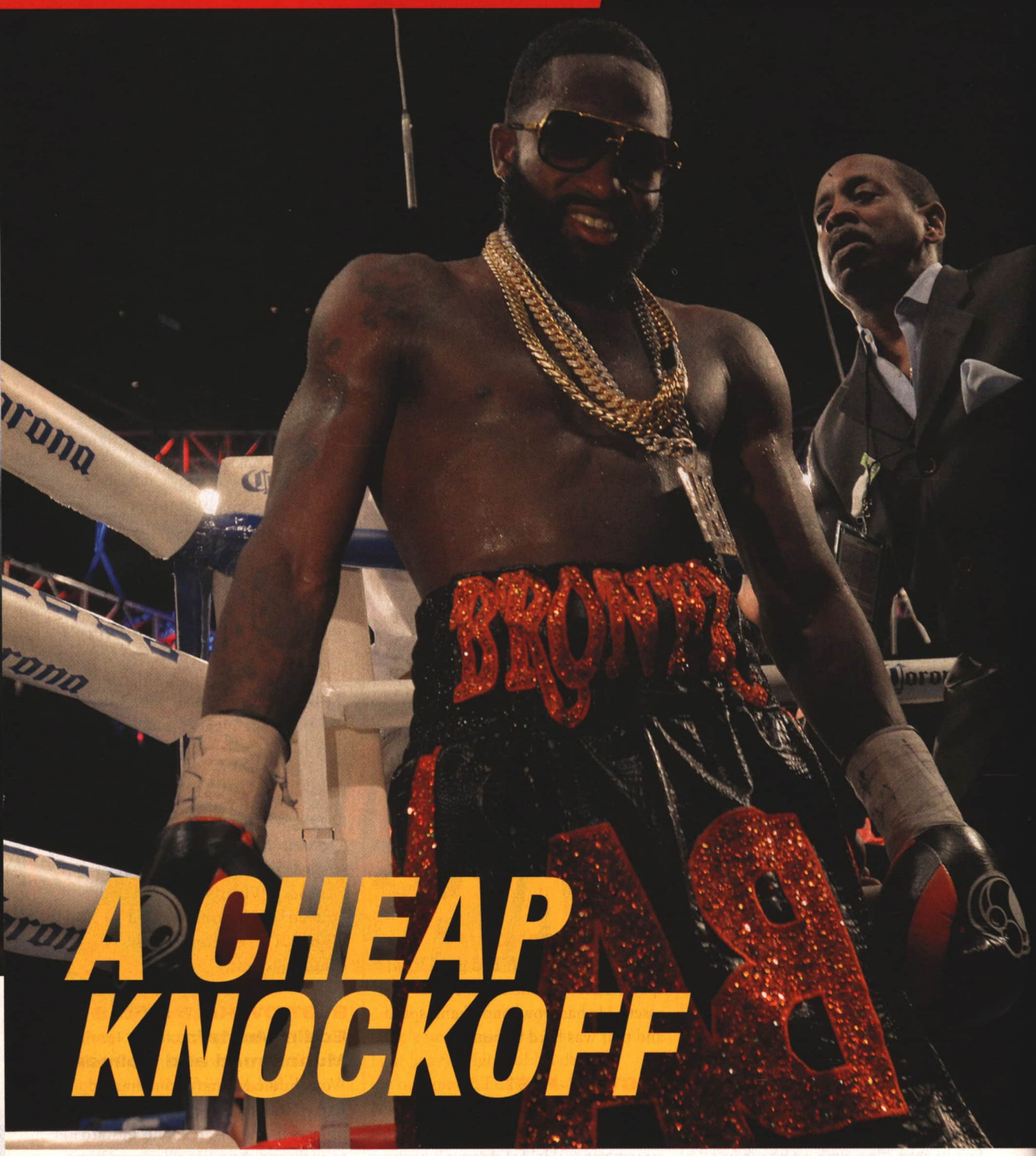
Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and Holmes: Wow. Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Larry Holmes, Yaqui Lopez, a lot of guys had skills. It's kind of hard to pick one. As a light heavyweight champion, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad; as a heavyweight, Larry Holmes.

BEST OVERALL FIGHTER

Tyson: Well, Larry Holmes was undefeated. Tyson had to be the best because he beat Larry Holmes and me.

PORTRAIT: KIM/GETTY IMAGES; RING MAGAZINE

By **David Greisman**



A CHEAP KNOCKOFF

ADRIEN BRONER WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING RESEMBLING FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

Adrien Broner is no Floyd Mayweather Jr. But you knew that even before he suffered his first pro loss, immediately disqualifying him from becoming anything resembling The Best Ever. He's never going to be The Second Best Ever. He's not even the second best junior welterweight in the sport today.

It's unfortunate that Broner skipped fighting at 140 when there were big names he could've fought there, including guys like Danny Garcia and Lucas Matthysse. Instead, he went straight from lightweight to welterweight, took on the easiest of the titleholders, won a belt and then lost it the

Adrien Broner took a relatively easy road to winning titles in four weight classes.

DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES

moment he stepped up his level of competition.

Now he's back at junior welterweight. Some fighters have a hard road to the top. Broner, however, has once again picked up a belt by taking the path of least resistance, defeating Khabib Allakhverdiev for a vacant title.

Even that vacancy was a joke. The WBA belt was previously held by Garcia. The oft-derided sanctioning body tends to have as many as three titleholders in a single division. Jose Benavidez Jr. had held the WBA's "interim" belt since the end of 2014. Benavidez, who is with Top Rank, is still the interim titleholder. That allowed Broner, who like Garcia is with Al Haymon, to leapfrog over No. 1 and pick up his fourth world title in as many weight classes.

He's the second youngest ever to do so, which would seem to be a significant accomplishment. Instead, it's nothing to write home about.

Broner's first title was a layup, a fastball grooved down the middle. He fought for a vacant belt at 130 against Vicente Rodriguez, whom you probably had never heard of. Broner beat him in three. He then took out Eloy Perez in his next defense before coming in overweight against Vicente Escobedo to say goodbye to junior lightweight in the most Broneresque way possible.

His second title, at 135, was perhaps his most impressive performance as he took Antonio DeMarco apart inside eight rounds, making it look easy against the same fighter who had come from behind to knock out Jorge Linares and then needed less than a minute to put John Molina away.

After Broner beat Gavin Rees he could've remained in the division and faced lesser foes. Instead he made the move to 147, topped Paulie Malignaggi and then fell to Marcos Maidana in late 2013. He deserves credit for his willingness to take on a difficult challenge like Maidana at a heavier weight than where he better belonged. The same can be said for Broner's loss to Shawn Porter earlier this year, even if Broner tried to take advantage of Porter by calling for a catchweight.

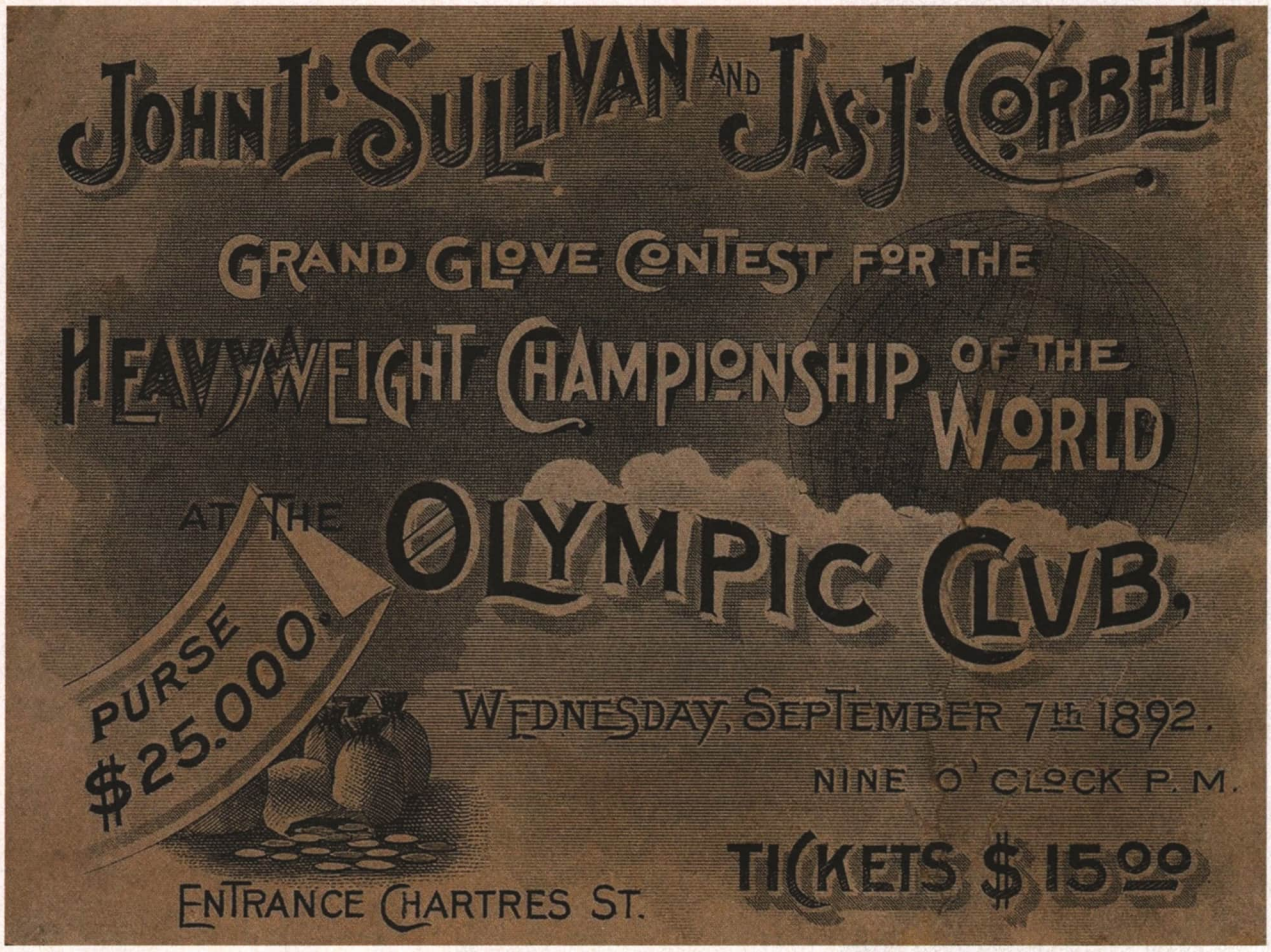
Broner also deserves scorn. Those losses came because Broner refused to give himself the best chance to win, both outside of the ring and on fight night. He's very good against guys who aren't very good but he has struggled against next-level opposition. That's why he's content getting paid very well to do very little of consequence.

The consequence of all of that is his TV ratings are suffering. He'd tried to be a Mayweather-like antihero and villain who people loved or hated but watched nonetheless. He's had two high-profile losses on Showtime and NBC. Viewers didn't come out in great, good or even decent numbers to watch his win over Allakhverdiev.

It would be even worse than a Broneresque joke if he actually went ahead with fighting Ashley Theophane, whom Broner called out post-Allakhverdiev. He won't fight Terence Crawford or Viktor Postol or the recently defeated Lucas Matthysse because of the politics of the business. He likely won't fight Lamont Peterson, who is like a big brother to him. He won't move back up to 147 to face any of the names there unless he has to. He's 1-2 in that division. Perhaps a fight with Ruslan Provodnikov could be made at 140.

That would be something. It still wouldn't approach what Mayweather did. While Mayweather was selective with opponents at certain points in his career, his world titles in five weight classes also included lineal championships in four and a significant track record. He was 24-0 against fighters who held, once held or would go on to hold world titles.

Broner, for now, is 4-2 against such opponents. He's no "Money" Mayweather. He's not a counterfeit version either. You can't call him "Funny Money" when he's neither. Rather, he's good enough to have around so long as you know that he'll never be anything but a cheap knockoff of the real thing.



COLLECTORS' GOLD

HISTORIC FIGHT PROGRAMS CAN BE WORTH AS MUCH AS $20,000

Boxing fans are often collectors and fight programs are often prized.

Craig Hamilton is the foremost boxing memorabilia dealer in the United States. The most valuable fight program that he's aware of is for three championship fights that took place at the Olympic Club in New Orleans over the course of three days in September 1892. Jack McAuliffe knocked out Billy Myer. George Dixon stopped Jack Skelly. And, in the big one, James J. Corbett dethroned John L. Sullivan to claim the heavyweight crown.

"Collectors hadn't even known that a program for those fights existed," Hamilton said. "Then, sometime around 1990, I was contacted by a woman who was a descendant of a man who'd been a boxing instructor at the Olympic Club. She had eight programs for the event. They were in good condition with a beautiful ornate color cover on each one. The family kept several of the programs and I helped her sell the others. Depending on their condition today, I'd say that each of them is worth between $15,000 and $20,000."

The magnitude of a fight is important to the value of a program. Particular fighters are more in demand than others. The condition of the program is important too. But rarity is the key factor.

"The most valuable Muhammad Ali program," Hamilton continued, "is for Cassius Clay vs. Tunney Hunsaker. It's just a one-page bout sheet. But it was Clay's debut fight and only seven or eight are known to exist, all of them from the collection of (Clay's first trainer) Joe Martin. I'd say they're worth $8,000 to $10,000 each. There are no known programs for Clay vs. LaMar Clark or Clay vs. Alex Miteff. So if a bout sheet for one of those fights surfaced, it would be a big deal. Guys who collect Ali programs would be bidding against each other and it could go for $10,000."

Where Ali's most notable fights are concerned, the most valuable on-site program is for Ali-George Foreman. "Rarity and demand," Hamilton explained. "In excellent condition, it can bring as much as $7,500."

Ali-Joe Frazier III ("another rare one") goes for up to $3,000. Ali-Frazier I ($300 to $400) and Ali-Frazier II ($100 to $200) are less valuable because there are so many of them.

Clay-Sonny Liston I is also rare and, in excellent condition, is in the $1,500-to-$2,000 range. There were two different on-site programs for Ali-Liston II, now worth about $400 each.

But Hamilton adds a word of caution, noting, "The thing about paper is, there's always the danger that people will find more, a lot more. Ali-Liston II in Lewiston, Maine, was a scarce ticket that sold for $1,500 to $2,000. Then, about 20 years ago, someone in Maine made a big find. Now they're worth $200 to $300."

★

One reason that Paulie

Malignaggi has fought as long as he has is the hope that a big win at the end of his career would keep alive his dream of induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota.

"So much hinges on Saturday night," Malignaggi said two days before a ninth-round loss to Danny Garcia on Aug. 1. "I made a list of goals that I wanted to achieve when I started boxing and I've been checking things off ever since. National amateur champion. Yes. Olympian. No. World champion. Yes. Financial security. Yes. Hall of Fame. That was my biggest long-term goal. If I win on Saturday night, that hope stays alive."

Is the dream now dead?

Not necessarily.

There will be no more big wins for Malignaggi. His ring record is 34-7. Each of his losses to date has been against an elite opponent. One of those losses was to Miguel Cotto, who recently told this writer, "After our fight, I became friends with Paulie. His courage on the night of the fight made me think, 'Someday this person will be a champion. He has the heart of a champion and he deserves to be a champion.' I was happy for him when he became a champion."

Future fights will do nothing to enhance Malignaggi's legacy. His numbers now are comparable with those of Arturo Gatti (40-9) and Ray Mancini (29-5), each of whom is in the Hall of Fame.

How would Malignaggi have fared against Gatti and Mancini? Hall of Fame matchmaker Bruce Trampler offers the following thoughts.

"Gatti-Malignaggi," Trampler said, "is a great fight. Paulie isn't a puncher so he wouldn't take Gatti out. He'd have to outbox him the way Ivan Robinson did. Arturo would hit Paulie, no doubt about that. But I don't know who wins."

And Malignaggi-Mancini?

"I like Mancini," Trampler answered. "Ray had better technique than people give him credit for. He would have been too aggressive and too strong for Paulie but it would have been a good fight. Mancini beats Gatti too."

Gatti retired in 2007 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility (2013). The electors understood that Gatti's ring skills weren't on a par with most previous inductees. But he had something extra going for him. He was a thrilling, fan-friendly, blood-and-guts warrior.

Mancini's last fight was in 1992. He wasn't inducted until 2015. Mancini got a boost in the balloting from his ongoing visibility and popularity.

Malignaggi, like Gatti and Mancini, has "something extra" going for him. He's making a name for himself as one of boxing's best expert analysts on television. And he's "Paulie" – a one-name phenomenon.

Mancini waited 23 years to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. If Malignaggi's career as a commentator continues to thrive, it's possible that someday the combination of his ring skills and TV work will land him in Canastota.

★

There's a tale – no doubt

apocryphal – that captures Don King's gift for charming virtually everyone he meets.

It seems that he was in an airport one day and saw a little old lady crying. Being a gentleman, he went over and asked what the matter was. The woman poured out her heart.

"Mr. King, my son and I are estranged. We're Jewish with a long family tradition in the faith. Nine months ago, my son married an American Indian woman. I said some things that I shouldn't have said about his marrying out of the faith. They just had a baby boy and they won't speak to me."

King gallantly offered to call the woman's son on her behalf. She gave him the phone number. Don retired to the airport lounge, came back 20 minutes later and told the woman, "You don't have to worry anymore. I've talked to your son and his wife. They have a healthy baby boy. I explained to them how important a mother's love is. And to prove their love for you, they've given the baby a nice Jewish name."

The woman hugged King and promised to remember him with gratitude forever.

"What did they name the baby?" she asked.

"Smoked whitefish," Don told her.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book – "Thomas Hauser on Boxing" – was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

By **Brian Harty**

A statue of Joe Frazier was unveiled on Sept. 12 in Philadelphia.

THE HERO GAME

We love using the comparison between boxers and gladiators to suggest that a warrior code exists inside the ropes, that somehow the same rule about "going out on one's shield" applies. It does not, of course. That phrase means something quite different when swords are involved, and we should be careful how we use it.

This detracts nothing from boxing's own ethos, though. Fighting is dangerous, sometimes debilitating, sometimes even lethal, and those who do it knowingly face the risks. To avoid that danger is to turn away from a night-by-night quest that might lead to being called "the best in the world" – one person out of billions. That same individual might even transcend his lifespan and find a place among "the best of all time." In this desire to have their names glorified and remembered forever, boxers are like gladiators. But anytime a boxer leaves the ring on his shield, which in modern Rome means strapped to a scoop stretcher, it is never anything but sad.

Two boxers chasing the glory died as a result of fighting this past month – Davey Browne Jr. and Mzwanele Kompolo – while two others, their legacies already safe at the International Boxing Hall of Fame, were canonized in bronze – Joe Frazier and Stanley Ketchel. It's difficult to fathom a more merciless demonstration of risk vs. reward.

Browne was 28 years old and on a promising streak. The Australian had lost only once in 27 bouts, against future featherweight titleholder Billy Dib, but was seven fights removed from the setback. He was working his way up the rankings. On Sept. 11 he stepped in with Carlo Magali, of the Philippines, and was winning on all three cards when he got caught in the 12th and final round. "The Filipino hit him with a crashing punch and he was out cold before he hit the floor," Australian Boxing Federation president John McDougall said. Browne died in a nearby hospital four days later.

The day after Browne's fight, Frazier's statue was revealed at a well-attended media event in Philadelphia about two miles from where the statue of another bronzed boxing hero, Rocky Balboa, had been standing for almost 35 years. Given Philly's reputation as a fighter factory it had always irked some that the city favored a fictional person over a real one, so following Frazier's death in 2011 there was a movement (driven in part by Bernard Hopkins) to rectify that.

The result, sculpted by Stephen Lane, is an 11-foot, 1,800-pound depiction of Smokin' Joe at the tail end of throwing a left hook. He stares into the space where an opponent should be but the lack of one hallows the act itself: It is the punch that put Muhammad Ali on the canvas during "The Fight of the Century."

The same day the Frazier statue was unveiled, Kompolo climbed the stairs for the first time in his professional career to face fellow South African Siphenathi Qampi. Fighting in Eastern Cape province, birthplace of anti-apartheid leader Stephen Biko, Kompolo never made it past the first round. The 22-year-old was in a coma until his family removed him from life support the following Tuesday.

Ketchel began his career on the other side of a first-round knockout in 1903. He would score 47 more in a career that lasted only seven years but still earns him almost universal recognition as one of the 10 best middleweights of all time – often Top 5. Four months after his final bout, in 1910, he was murdered in Missouri at the age of 24. His statue, created by Ann Hirsch, was dedicated on Oct. 2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

And so here we have this awful dichotomy – two boxing careers enshrined, two ruined. As the veil falls over one life it falls away from the monument to another. Such is the game heroes play.

The statue of Ketchel is very different from the one of Frazier. Modestly life-sized, it is not an action pose, just a man wearing shoes, trunks and a championship belt, standing calmly with arms crossed on his chest. Its simplicity is its strength. It projects a sort of impassive dignity that, win or lose, can be claimed by any fighter who ever chose to begin the quest.

It suggests that Ketchel doesn't need to lift a damn finger – you should already know the glory his name carries. RING

AP PHOTO/MATT SLOCUM

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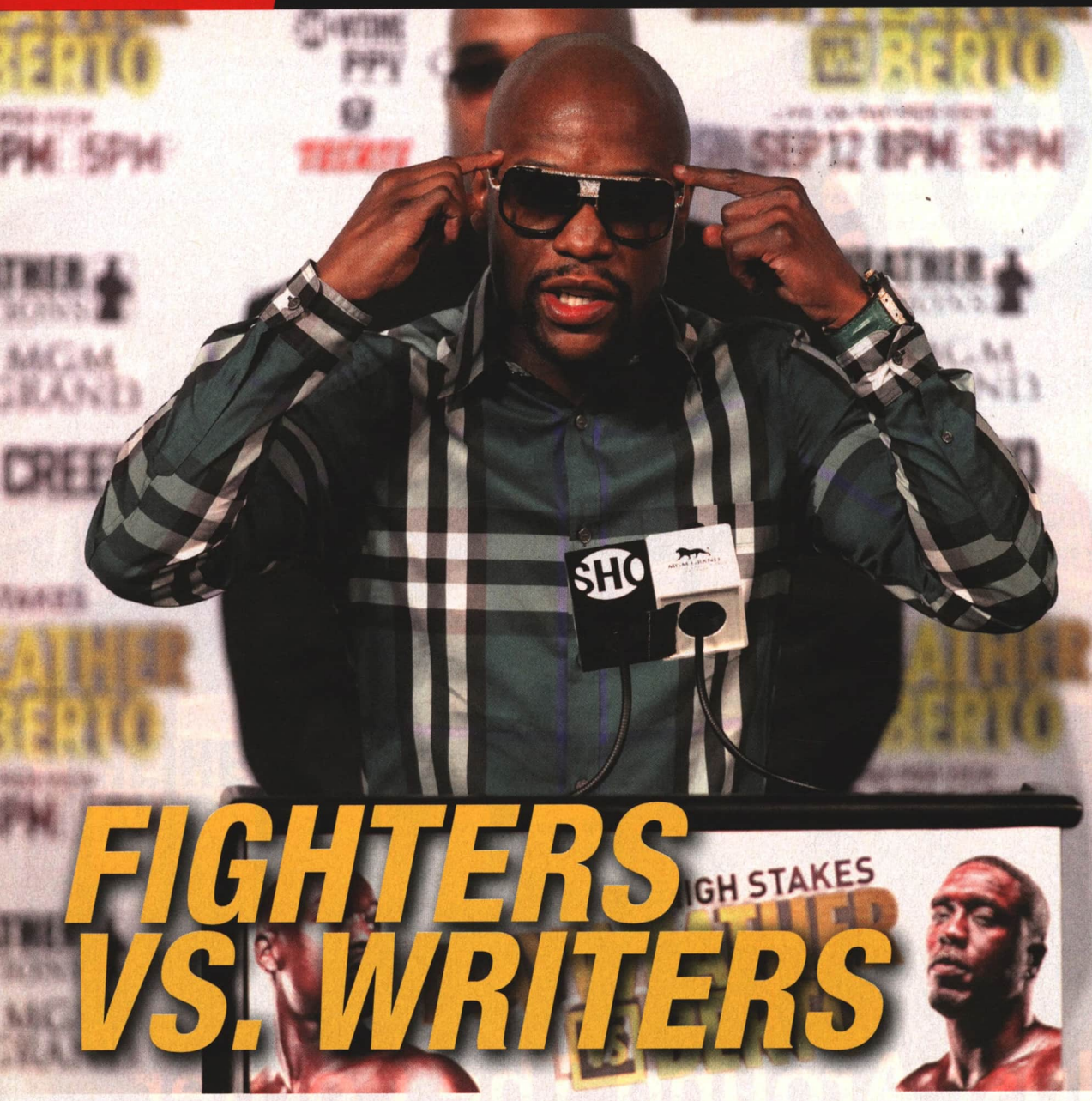


FIGHTERS VS. WRITERS

B-HOP EXPLAINS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA AND ITS ROLE IN THE SPORT

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been adept at getting the attention of the media.

This is one in a series of columns by future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, who – through contributor Joseph Santoliquito – gives us his thoughts on various subjects important to every boxer and fan.

Media is important to boxing, especially to the fighters themselves because – whether they like it or not – the media is the fight game's connection to the public. And if you don't have that connection, you don't have a promotion.

I have used the media in a lot of different ways in the past. It's no secret I've used the media in good, bad and ugly ways. I'm not going to do a soft-shoe around that. I was, and still am, very, very vocal and I know that the media knew I used them for multiple reasons. Part of it was to promote myself, which fighters still do today. But another part of it was to always keep myself motivated.

I was always the kind of fighter that had to feel I wasn't respected enough. The media came in handy for things like that, especially when I was on my run defending the middleweight title.

How do I try to sell a fight against someone like Morrade Hakkar, who did nothing but run around the ring? I had to use the media in order to sell that title defense. I had to pick my

MAYWEATHER: JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ALVAREZ: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

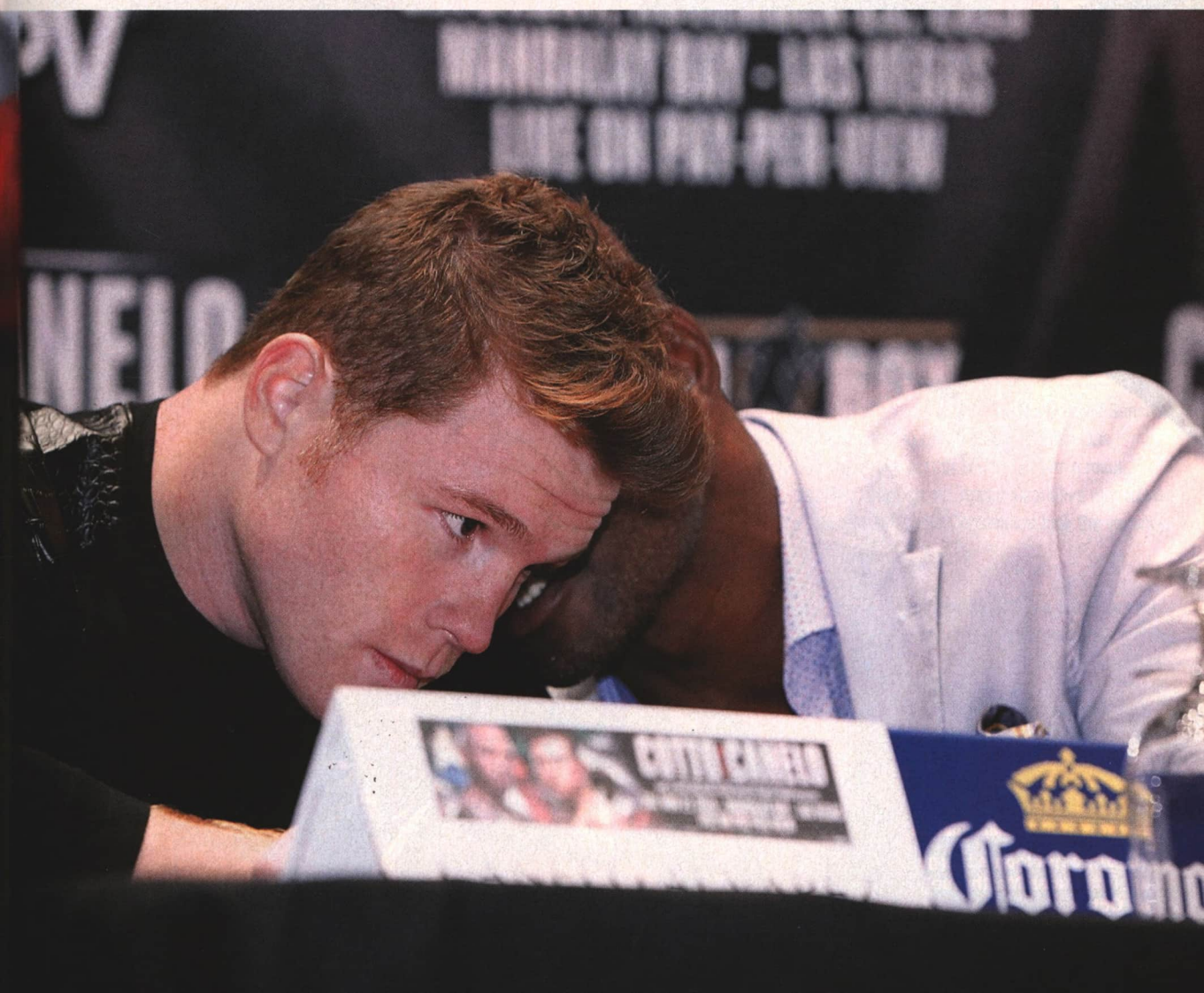
fights with the writers to prove my point. The writers won some of those fights but I won most of them. I liked it though. I think that back and forth between the media and fighters is something that's missing today.

In my era, Floyd Mayweather Jr. was among the top three or four fighters in using the media to create a personality, a villain in his case. He was someone who made fights more interesting with his mouth and his actions more than his fists. Mayweather is a master at it. I was watching a film recently of wrestler Ric Flair talking about his Rolex watches, his alligator shoes and his $10,000 suits in the 1970s so it's nothing new Mayweather created. But he perfected it and worked it well.

I still don't like hearing good things about myself in the media (such as calling him a "future Hall of Famer"). I have to get used to hearing that. There are a number of people in the media who I know and who truly know me. Fans have seen through the media that there is more to me than what they may have heard or seen in the past. It's almost like George Foreman, who evolved in the eyes of the media in a different way as he got older.

I've grown up a lot. I went from a troubled youth to someone who fought for respect in the ring to someone who became a world champion. It took time for me to feel confident enough, through the media, to show who I truly am. I thought it was a weakness to show a softer side. I'm not used to reading compliments because I embraced the villain as the hero. It's changed a lot and that's come through the media telling my story over and over again.

What scares me today is that the boxing media is shrinking. It's not a deep, deep pool of reporters that know what they're talking about. There are guys who know the game and can talk about the game. It's just a little scary that there aren't many of them out there today. RING

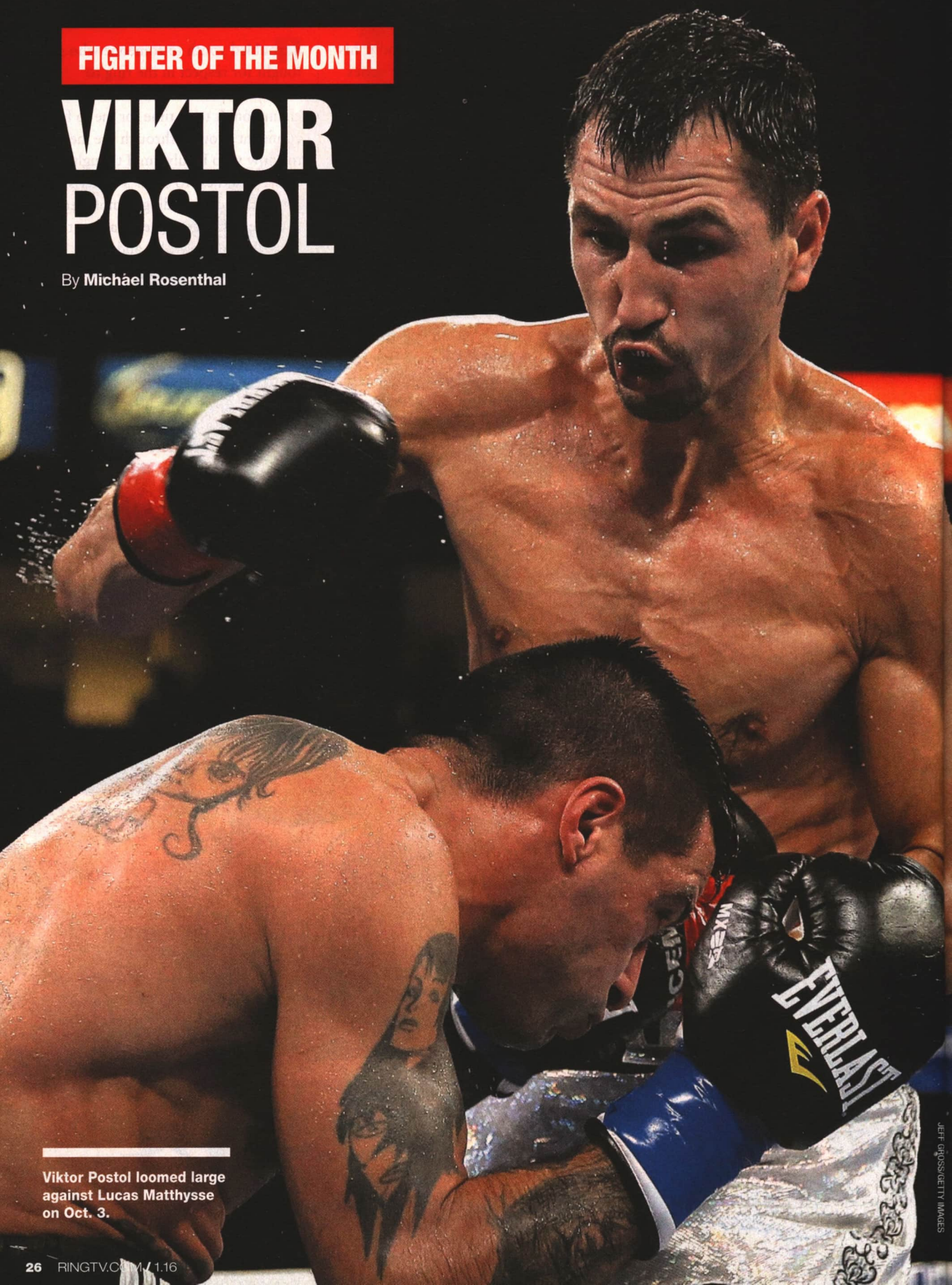


Bernard Hopkins (here advising Canelo Alvarez) knows how to work a press conference.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

VIKTOR POSTOL

By **Michael Rosenthal**



Viktor Postol loomed large against Lucas Matthysse on Oct. 3.

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Those who have followed the career of Viktor Postol very closely were well aware that the crafty 5-foot-11 technician from Ukraine would be a style nightmare for even the best junior welterweights in the world.

The rest of us needed a little proof. We got it in dramatic fashion on Oct. 3 in Carson, California.

That's when and where Postol stunned many in the boxing world by first outboxing Lucas Matthysse and then stopping him in the 10th round to win the vacant WBC title in the main event of an HBO broadcast.

Postol fought the perfect fight, keeping Matthysse at the end of his long jab, mixing in power punches here and there, moving or holding to avoid taking punishment and frustrating the hard-charging Argentine all night long.

The scores were close – two judges had Postol leading 86-85, the third had Matthysse by the same score – when Postol put Matthysse down with a straight right.

Matthysse said he stayed down to protect an injured eye. Some wondered whether he was more discouraged than hurt. Either way, Postol put a giant exclamation point on an eye-opening performance that makes him a major player in his division.

It also undoubtedly has a lot of 140-pounders thinking the exact same thing: "Man, that tall guy would be tough to beat." RING

POUND FOR POUND: Floyd Mayweather Jr. announced his retirement after a 12-round walk in the park with Andre Berto and that triggered a tectonic shift in the ratings. Flyweight Roman Gonzalez (No. 2 last month) became the new king, Sergey Kovalev jumped from No. 7 to No. 3 and Wladimir Klitschko was dropped from No. 3 to No. 6. Manny Pacquiao also dropped, from No. 6 to No. 8, while Terence Crawford gained a position (from No. 8 to No. 7). One newcomer, welterweight Kell Brook, arrived at No. 10 and one familiar face, Andre Ward, returned to take the No. 2 position.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Poland's Krzystzof Wlodarczyk (No. 5 last month) fell out due to inactivity and No. 8 Victor Ramirez of Argentina was dropped after a controversial draw with the unrated Ovill McKenzie. Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk and Russia's Rakhim Chakhkiev came in at Nos. 9 and 10, respectively.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Badou Jack (No. 6 last month) and George Groves (No. 3 last month) switched places after Jack retained his title with a split decision over Groves. Fedor Chudinov (No. 9 last month) scored a wide points decision over unrated Frank Buglioni and jumped to No. 8, switching places with Felix Sturm, whom Chudinov will fight in a December rematch.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Jermall Charlo (No. 7 last month) took the IBF title from Cornelius Bundrage (No. 6 at the time) with a three-round beating. The defeated veteran was ejected from the ratings, Charlo climbed to No. 5 and the U.K.'s Liam Smith entered at No. 10. Smith then claimed the WBO title with a seventh-round knockout of John Thompson (unrated) and moved up to No. 8.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Mayweather's retirement left the championship vacant. Marcos Maidana (No. 7 last month) then left due to inactivity and No. 10 was filled by U.S. Olympian Errol Spence.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Viktor Postol turned in a career-best performance in winning a vacant title with a knockout of No. 1-rated Lucas Matthysse. Postol surged from No. 7 all the way to No. 1 while Matthysse fell to No. 4. Lamont Peterson (No. 2 last month) was removed for fighting above 140 for more than a year and Mexican Antonio Orozco, coming off a unanimous decision over Humberto Soto (unrated), claimed the No. 10 spot.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No. 1 Richar Abril of Cuba was dropped for inactivity so everyone on the list moved up one space. Jorge Linares (No. 2 last month) assumed the top spot and undefeated Cuban Rances Barthelemy came in at No. 10. Then a real shakeup occurred. First, No. 2-rated Miguel Vazquez lost a unanimous decision to unrated Dominican Argenis Mendez. Then, undefeated Englishman Terry Flanagan took down Diego Magdaleno (both unrated) in just two rounds. At the same time, No. 4 Mickey Bey was dropped due to inactivity. As a result of all this, Vazquez fell to No. 10, Flanagan entered at No. 7 and Mendez came in at No. 9. Others in the division were shuffled up or down. Only Kevin Mitchell (No. 8) kept last month's position.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Titleholder Roman Martinez (No. 3 last month) and Orlando Salido (No. 8 last month) waged all-out war to a draw but unofficial scores leaned heavily toward Salido. Salido took the No. 3 spot and Martinez was pushed down to No. 4.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Filipino Malcolm Tunacao (No. 6 last month) was dropped for inactivity and Thai titleholder Pungluang Sor Singyu came in at No. 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No. 9 David Sanchez of Mexico lost to unrated Panamanian Luis Concepcion by a 10th-round TKO. As a result, Sanchez dropped out, Arthur Villanueva moved up a notch to No. 9 and Concepcion took the vacancy at No. 10.

FLYWEIGHTS: Giovani Segura (No. 8 last month) hadn't fought for more than a year and had nothing lined up so he was dropped. Johnriel Casimero of the Philippines took the No. 10 spot.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Japan's Ryuji Hara (No. 7 last month) was stopped in eight rounds by No. 2 Katsunari Takayama. It was Hara's second KO loss in three fights so he was dropped and Thailand's Fahlan Sakkreerin entered at No. 10.

WBC heavyweight titleholder Deontay Wilder (right) put Johann Duhaupas away in 11 rounds on Sept. 26.

THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE: WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
543 • Ukraine • 64-3-0 (53 KOs)

1. ALEXANDER POVETKIN
417 • Russia • 29-1-0 (21 KOs)

2. DEONTAY WILDER
101 • U.S. • 35-0-0 (34 KOs)

3. TYSON FURY
191 • U.K. • 24-0-0 (18 KOs)

4. KUBRAT PULEV
209 • Bulgaria • 20-1-0 (11 KOs)

5. BRYANT JENNINGS
82 • U.S. • 19-1-0 (10 KOs)

6. BERMANE STIVERNE
131 • Canada • 24-2-1 (21 KOs)

7. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
83 • Ukraine • 21-0-1 (13 KOs)

8. RUSLAN CHAGAEV
49 • Uzbek. • 34-2-1 (21 KOs)

9. TONY THOMPSON
31 • U.S. • 40-5-0 (27 KOs)

10. CARLOS TAKAM
21 • Cameroon • 32-2-1 (25 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ
211 • Cuba • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

1. GRIGORY DROZD
106 • Russia • 40-1-0 (28 KOs)

2. DENIS LEBEDEV
298 • Russia • 27-2-0 (20 KOs)

3. KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI
9 • Poland • 25-0-0 (16 KOs)

4. MARCO HUCK
147 • Germany • 38-3-1 (26 KOs)

5. ILUNGA MAKABU
118 • Congo • 19-1-0 (18 KOs)

6. FIRAT ARSLAN
154 • Germany • 35-8-2 (21 KOs)

7. YOURI KALENGA
69 • Congo • 21-2-0 (14 KOs)

8. DMITRY KUDRYASHOV
27 • Russia • 18-0-0 (18 KOs)

9. OLEKSANDR USYK
2 • Ukraine • 8-0-0 (8 KOs)

10. RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV
2 • Russia • 24-1-0 (18 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C ADONIS STEVENSON
123 • Canada • 27-1-0 (22 KOs)

1. SERGEY KOVALEV
143 • Russia • 28-0-1 (25 KOs)

2. BERNARD HOPKINS
489 • U.S. • 55-7-2 (32 KOs)

3. JEAN PASCAL
118 • Canada • 30-3-1 (17 KOs)

4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER
172 • Germany • 47-2-0 (35 KOs)

5. ELEIDER ALVAREZ
83 • Colombia • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)

6. ISAAC CHILEMBA
181 • Malawi • 24-2-2 (10 KOs)

7. ARTUR BETERBIEV
44 • Russia • 9-0-0 (9 KOs)

8. ANDRZEJ FONFARA
74 • Poland • 27-3-0 (16 KOs)

9. YUNIESKI GONZALEZ
12 • Cuba • 16-1-0 (12 KOs)

10. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN
28 • S. Africa • 25-0-2 (14 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. ARTHUR ABRAHAM
314 • Armenia • 43-4-0 (29 KOs)

2. JAMES DEGALE
123 • U.K. • 21-1-0 (14 KOs)

3. BADOU JACK
25 • Sweden • 20-1-1 (12 KOs)

4. GILBERTO RAMIREZ
66 • Mexico • 32-0-0 (24 KOs)

5. ANDRE DIRRELL
59 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (16 KOs)

6. GEORGE GROVES
201 • U.K. • 21-3-0 (16 KOs)

7. ANTHONY DIRRELL
61 • U.S. • 28-1-1 (22 KOs)

8. FEDOR CHUDINOV
23 • Russia • 14-0-0 (10 KOs)

9. ROBERT STIEGLITZ
322 • Russia • 47-5-1 (27 KOs)

10. CALLUM SMITH
19 • U.K. • 17-0-0 (12 KOs)

DAMD A. SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C MIGUEL COTTO
71 • P.R. • 40-4-0 (33 KOs)

1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN
201 • Kaz. • 33-0-0 (30 KOs)

2. ANDY LEE
44 • Ireland • 34-2-1 (24 KOs)

3. PETER QUILLIN
176 • U.S. • 32-0-1 (23 KOs)

4. DAVID LEMIEUX
20 • Canada • 34-2-0 (31 KOs)

5. BILLY JOE SAUNDERS
46 • U.K. • 22-0-0 (11 KOs)

6. DANIEL JACOBS
44 • U.S. • 30-1-0 (27 KOs)

7. HASSAN N'DAM
91 • Cameroon • 31-2-0 (18 KOs)

8. DANIEL GEALE
331 • Australia • 31-4-0 (16 KOs)

9. CHRIS EUBANK JR.
27 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (14 KOs)

10. MICHEL SORO
16 • France • 27-1-1 (17 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. CANELO ALVAREZ
257 • Mexico • 45-1-1 (32 KOs)

2. ERISLANDY LARA
224 • Cuba • 21-2-2 (12 KOs)

3. AUSTIN TROUT
176 • U.S. • 29-2-0 (16 KOs)

4. JERMELL CHARLO
101 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

5. JERMALL CHARLO
70 • U.S. • 22-0-0 (17 KOs)

6. VANES MARTIROSYAN
306 • U.S. • 36-2-1 (21 KOs)

7. JULIAN WILLIAMS
44 • U.S. • 21-0-1 (13 KOs)

8. LIAM SMITH
5 • U.K. • 21-0-1 (11 KOs)

9. CARLOS MOLINA
224 • Mexico • 23-6-2 (7 KOs)

10. WILLIE NELSON
12 • U.S. • 24-2-1 (14 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. KELL BROOK
234 • U.K. • 35-0-0 (24 KOs)

2. MANNY PACQUIAO
210 • Phil. • 57-6-2 (38 KOs)

3. AMIR KHAN
76 • U.K. • 31-3-0 (19 KOs)

4. TIM BRADLEY
175 • U.S. • 32-1-1 (12 KOs)

5. KEITH THURMAN
136 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (22 KOs)

6. SHAWN PORTER
97 • U.S. • 26-1-1 (16 KOs)

7. DIEGO CHAVES
44 • Argentina • 23-2-1 (19 KOs)

8. SADAM ALI
22 • U.S. • 22-0-0 (13 KOs)

9. DANNY GARCIA
11 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (18 KOs)

10. ERROL SPENCE
2 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (15 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. VIKTOR POSTOL
113 • Ukraine • 28-0-0 (12 KOs)

2. TERENCE CRAWFORD
26 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (18 KOs)

3. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
149 • Russia • 24-4-0 (17 KOs)

4. LUCAS MATTHYSSE
236 • Argentina • 37-4-0 (34 KOs)

5. ADRIEN BRONER
76 • U.S. • 31-2-0 (23 KOs)

6. JESSIE VARGAS
79 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (9 KOs)

7. MAURICIO HERRERA
38 • U.S. • 22-5-0 (7 KOs)

8. AMIR IMAM
22 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (15 KOs)

9. JOSE BENAVIDEZ
27 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (16 KOs)

10. ANTONIO OROZCO
2 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (15 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. JORGE LINARES
84 • Venezuela • 40-3-0 (27 KOs)

2. DEJAN ZLATICANIN
27 • Montenegro • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

3. DENIS SHAFIKOV
27 • Russia • 36-1-1 (19 KOs)

4. DIERRY JEAN
46 • Canada • 29-1-0 (20 KOs)

5. SHARIF BOGERE
50 • Uganda • 27-1-0 (19 KOs)

6. RICHARD COMMEY
20 • Ghana • 22-0-0 (20 KOs)

7. TERRY FLANAGAN
1 • U.K. • 29-0-0 (12 KOs)

8. KEVIN MITCHELL
37 • U.K. • 39-3-0 (29 KOs)

9. ARGENIS MENDEZ
1 • Dom. Rep. • 23-3-0 (13 KOs)

10. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
271 • Mexico • 35-5-0 (13 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
302 • Japan • 23-0-1 (19 KOs)

2. TAKASHI MIURA
132 • Japan • 29-2-2 (22 KOs)

3. ORLANDO SALIDO
56 • Mexico • 42-13 -2 (29 KOs)

4. ROMAN MARTINEZ
371 • P.R. • 29-2-3 (17 KOs)

5. FRANCISCO VARGAS
66 • Mexico • 22-0-1 (16 KOs)

6. JAVIER FORTUNA
50 • Dom. Rep. • 29-0-1 (21 KOs)

7. JOSE PEDRAZA
39 • P.R. • 21-0-0 (12 KOs)

8. BRYAN VASQUEZ
44 • Costa Rica • 34-2-0 (18 KOs)

9. ROMAIN JACOB
23 • France • 23-0-0 (7 KOs)

10. RIKKI NAITO
22 • Japan • 13-0-0 (5 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. NICHOLAS WALTERS
149 • Jamaica • 26-0-0 (21 KOs)

2. VASYL LOMACHENKO
76 • Ukraine • 4-1-0 (2 KO)

3. GARY RUSSELL JR.
29 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (15 KOs)

4. LEO SANTA CRUZ
7 • U.S. • 31-0-1 (17 KOs)

5. LEE SELBY
83 • U.K. • 21-1-0 (8 KOs)

6. ABNER MARES
128 • Mexico • 29-2-1 (15 KOs)

7. SIMPIWE VETYEKA
97 • S. Africa • 27-3-0 (16 KOs)

8. EVGENY GRADOVICH
137 • Russia • 19-1-1 (9 KOs)

9. JESUS CUELLAR
53 • Argentina • 27-1-0 (21 KOs)

10. JAYSON VELEZ
46 • P.R. • 23-0-1 (16 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
258 • Cuba • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)

1. SCOTT QUIGG
151 • U.K. • 31-0-2 (23 KOs)

2. CARL FRAMPTON
160 • U.K. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

3. NONITO DONAIRE
29 • Phil. • 35-3-0 (23 KOs)

4. GENESIS SERVANIA
83 • Phil. • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

5. SHINGO WAKE
47 • Japan • 19-4-2 (11 KOs)

6. REY VARGAS
44 • Mexico • 25-0-0 (20 KOs)

7. ALBERT PAGARA
41 • Phil. • 24-0-0 (16 KOs)

8. JESSIE MAGDALENO
18 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (15 KOs)

9. JULIO CEJA
7 • Mexico • 30-1-0 (27 KOs)

10. MANUEL AVILA
7 • U.S. • 18-0-0 (8 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING'S Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another. 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders choose not to fight one another and No. 1 fights No. 3, that matchup could be for the RING title if the Editorial Board deems No. 3 worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months, although injuries and certain other unforeseen circumstances could be taken into consideration; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his champion weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-10 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Editorial Board considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world and then decides collectively what changes will be made. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
206 • Japan • 24-0-2 (17 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO**
55 • Dom. Rep. • 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **ANSELMO MORENO**
394 • Panama • 35-4-1 (12 KOs)
4. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
126 • U.K. • 27-2-1 (12 KOs)
5. **KOKI KAMEDA**
252 • Japan • 33-1-0 (18 KOs)
6. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
115 • Japan • 31-2-0 (19 KOs)
7. **RANDY CABALLERO**
51 • U.S. • 22-0-0 (13 KOs)
8. **LEE HASKINS**
18 • U.K. • 32-3-0 (14 KOs)
9. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
13 • Thailand • 45-6-1 (23 KOs)
10. **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU**
4 • Thailand • 51-3-0 (35 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **NAOYA INOUE**
41 • Japan • 8-0-0 (7 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
179 • Mexico • 33-0-1 (26 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
128 • Thailand • 36-4-1 (33 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
98 • S. Africa • 21-3-0 (18 KOs)
5. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
284 • Argentina • 44-2-2 (23 KOs)
6. **MCJOE ARROYO**
70 • P.R. • 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
159 • Thailand • 57-1-1 (22 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
125 • Mexico • 31-3-0 (25 KOs)
9. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
130 • Phil. • 27-1-0 (14 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
4 • Panama • 33-4-0 (24 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C ROMAN GONZALEZ
101 • Nicaragua • 43-0-0 (37 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
132 • Mexico • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
2. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
75 • Thailand • 16-0-0 (5 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
223 • U.S. • 36-4-0 (22 KOs)
4. **KAZUTO IOKA**
56 • Japan • 18-1-0 (10 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
211 • Argentina • 36-2-0 (19 KOs)
6. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
83 • S. Africa • 31-2-0 (20 KOs)
7. **EDGAR SOSA**
179 • Mexico • 51-9-0 (30 KOs)
8. **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
58 • P.R. • 16-2-0 (14 KOs)
9. **NAWAPHON POR CHOKCHAI**
16 • Thailand • 30-0-0 (23 KOs)
10. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
1 • Phil. • 21-3-0 (13 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C DONNIE NIETES
210 • Phil. • 36-1-4 (21 KOs)

1. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
133 • Mexico • 26-1-1 (17 KOs)
2. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
44 • Japan • 22-2-1 (9 KOs)
3. **JAVIER MENDOZA**
27 • Mexico • 24-2-1 (19 KOs)
4. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
75 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (18 KOs)
5. **RAUL GARCIA**
41 • Mexico • 36-3-1 (22 KOs)
6. **MILAN MELINDO**
48 • Phil. • 32-2-0 (12 KOs)
7. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
129 • Peru • 34-9-0 (13 KOs)
8. **REY LORETO**
27 • Phil. • 20-13-0 (12 KOs)
9. **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**
20 • Mexico • 17-3-1 (11 KOs)
10. **JONATHAN TACONING**
12 • Phil. • 22-2-1 (18 KOs)

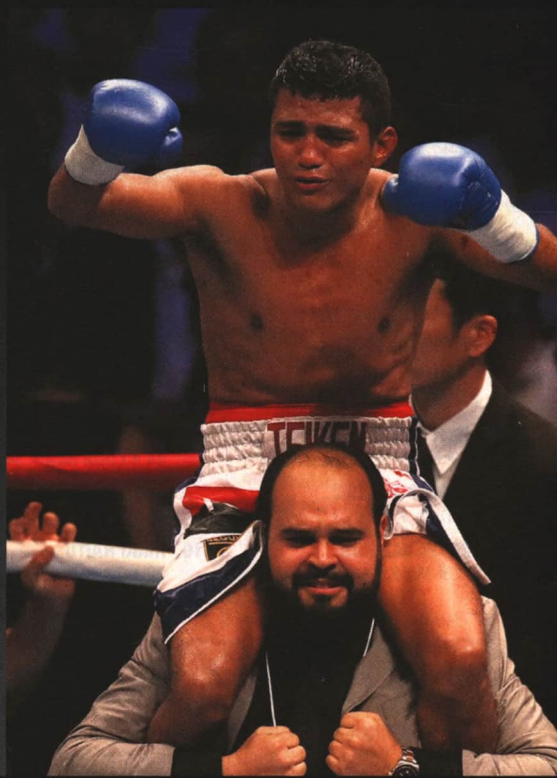
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
160 • S. Africa • 29-1-0 (9 KOs)
2. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
133 • Japan • 30-7-0 (12 KOs)
3. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
226 • Thailand • 39-0-0 (14 KOs)
4. **KOSEI TANAKA**
50 • Japan • 5-0-0 (2 KOs)
5. **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART**
54 • Thailand • 11-0-0 (6 KOs)
6. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
157 • Nicaragua • 28-1-1 (16 KOs)
7. **CHAO ZHONG XIONG**
48 • China • 26-6-1 (14 KOs)
8. **DENVER CUELLO**
48 • Phil. • 36-5-6 (24 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
12 • Mexico • 31-6-0 (22 KOs)
10. **FAHLAN SAKKREERIN**
3 • Thailand • 28-4-1 (15 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
71 • Nicaragua • 43-0-0 (37 KOs)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
5 • U.S. • 28-0-0 (15 KOs)
3. **SERGEY KOVALEV**
31 • Russia • 28-0-1 (25 KOs)
4. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
35 • Kaz. • 33-0-0 (30 KOs)
5. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
112 • Cuba • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
6. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
271 • Ukraine • 64-3-0 (53 KOs)
7. **TERENCE CRAWFORD**
24 • U.S. • 26-0-0 (18 KOs)
8. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
620 • Phil. • 57-6-2 (38 KOs)
9. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
21 • Japan • 24-0-2 (17 KOs)
10. **KELL BROOK**
5 • U.K. • 35-0-0 (24 KOs)



THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

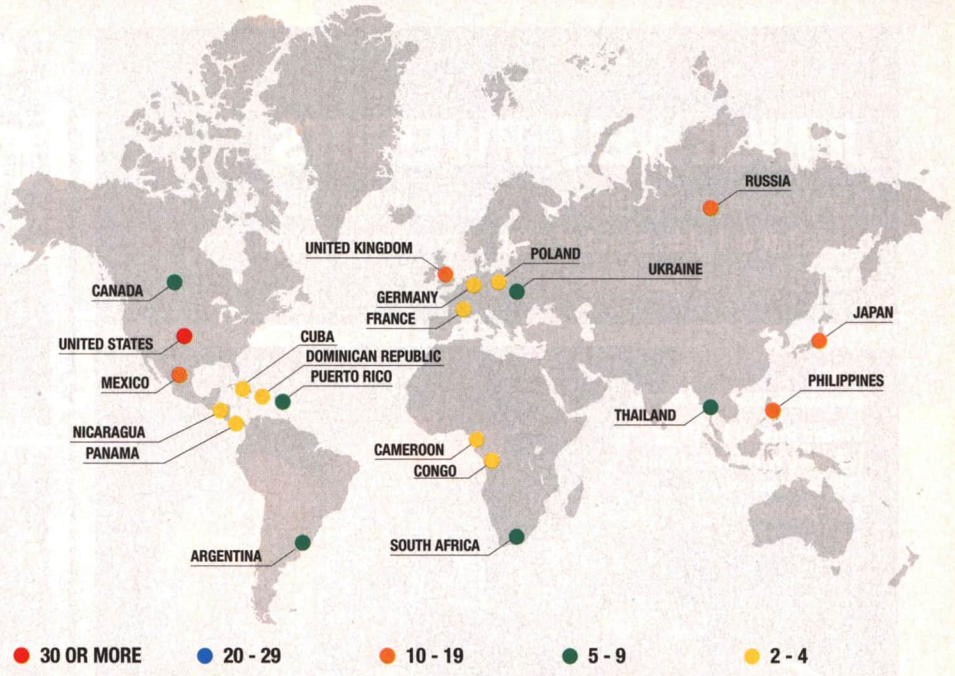
A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

●	UNITED STATES	33	↓ 2
●	MEXICO	18	↓ 2
●	UNITED KINGDOM	16	↑ 2
●	RUSSIA	12	↑ 1
●	JAPAN	12	↓ 1
●	PHILIPPINES	12	
●	THAILAND	9	↑ 2
●	PUERTO RICO	6	
●	ARGENTINA	5	↓ 2
●	CANADA	5	
●	SOUTH AFRICA	5	
●	UKRAINE	5	↑ 1
●	CUBA	4	↓ 1
●	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3	↑ 1
●	GERMANY	3	
●	CAMEROON	2	
●	CONGO	2	
●	FRANCE	2	
●	NICARAGUA	2	
●	POLAND	2	↓ 1
●	PANAMA	2	↑ 1
●	ARMENIA	1	
●	AUSTRALIA	1	
●	BULGARIA	1	
●	CHINA	1	
●	COLOMBIA	1	
●	COSTA RICA	1	
●	GHANA	1	
●	IRELAND	1	
●	JAMAICA	1	
●	KAZAKHSTAN	1	
●	MALAWI	1	
●	MONTENEGRO	1	
●	PERU	1	
●	SWEDEN	1	
●	UGANDA	1	
●	UZBEKISTAN	1	
●	VENEZUELA	1	

Countries out (from last month): *none.*

Countries in: *none.*



SPANISH VS. SPANISH

Last month, we compared the English- and Spanish-speaking nations of the Americas to one another. This month, we pit the dominant Spanish-speaking country – Mexico – against the remainder of the American countries that share the language. Mexico had more rated fighters than the rest combined less than a year ago. That's no longer the case, as Mexico has 14 fewer rated fighters compared to the January 2015 issue of THE RING. Here's a look at the numbers:

DIVISION	MEXICO	THE REST
HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	1
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	2
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	1
WELTERWEIGHTS	0	1
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	0	1
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	2
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	2	4
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	2
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	2
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	2	3
FLYWEIGHTS	2	3
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	4	1
STRAWWEIGHTS	1	1
TOTAL	18	26

Note: *These are the Spanish-speaking countries with rated fighters: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.*

RATINGS FIXTURES

Some of the fighters in the RING divisional ratings have been there a looooooong time. The leader? Wladimir Klitschko, who has been in the heavyweight ratings for more than a decade. Here are those with the longest tenures in a particular weight class (in weeks):

543 – WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO, HEAVYWEIGHT

489 – BERNARD HOPKINS, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

417 – ALEXANDER POVETKIN, HEAVYWEIGHT

394 – ANSELMO MORENO, BANTAMWEIGHT

371 – ROMAN MARTINEZ, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

331 – DANIEL GEALE, MIDDLEWEIGHT

322 – ROBERT STIEGLITZ, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

314 – ARTHUR ABRAHAM, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

306 – VANES MARTIROSYAN, JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

302 – TAKASHI UCHIYAMA, JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

298 – DENIS LEBEDEV, CRUISERWEIGHT

284 – OMAR NARVAEZ, JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

271 – MIGUEL VAZQUEZ, LIGHTWEIGHT

258 – GUILLLERMO RIGONDEAUX, JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

257 – CANELO ALVAREZ, JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

252 – KOKI KAMEDA, BANTAMWEIGHT

Note: *Manny Pacquiao has been on the pound-for-pound list for 620 weeks, almost 12 years.*

KEN ISHII/GETTY IMAGES

FOCUS ON . . .

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 140-pounders.

Viktor Postol has the longest winning streak (28) among rated 140-pounders.

MOST WEEKS RATED: LUCAS MATTHYSSE **236**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: ANTONIO OROZCO **2**

OLDEST: MAURICIO HERRERA **35**

YOUNGEST: JOSE BENAVIDEZ **23**

MOST FIGHTS: MATTHYSSE **41**

FEWEST FIGHTS: AMIR IMAM **18**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: BENAVIDEZ, TERENCE CRAWFORD, IMAM, VIKTOR POSTOL **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: HERRERA **80.8 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: MATTHYSSE **34**

FEWEST KOS: HERRERA **7**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: POSTOL **28 FIGHTS**

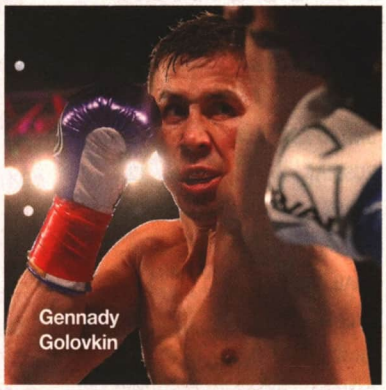
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: CRAWFORD **(NO. 7)**

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: ADRIEN BRONER **(WBA)**, CRAWFORD **(WBO)**, POSTOL **(WBC)**

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): JACK CATTERALL, CESAR CUENCA, THOMAS DULORME, HENRY LUNDY, EDUARD TROYANOVSKY

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Gennady Golovkin

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: SERGEY KOVALEV
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: KELL BROOK
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: SERGEY KOVALEV
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: KELL BROOK
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: VASYL LOMACHENKO
BANTAMWEIGHT: SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

BRIAN HARTY RING MAGAZINE MANAGING EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: SERGEY KOVALEV
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: KELL BROOK
LIGHTWEIGHT: TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: NAOYA INOUE
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

POSTOL: NAOKI FUKUDA; GOLOVKIN: STEPHEN DUNN

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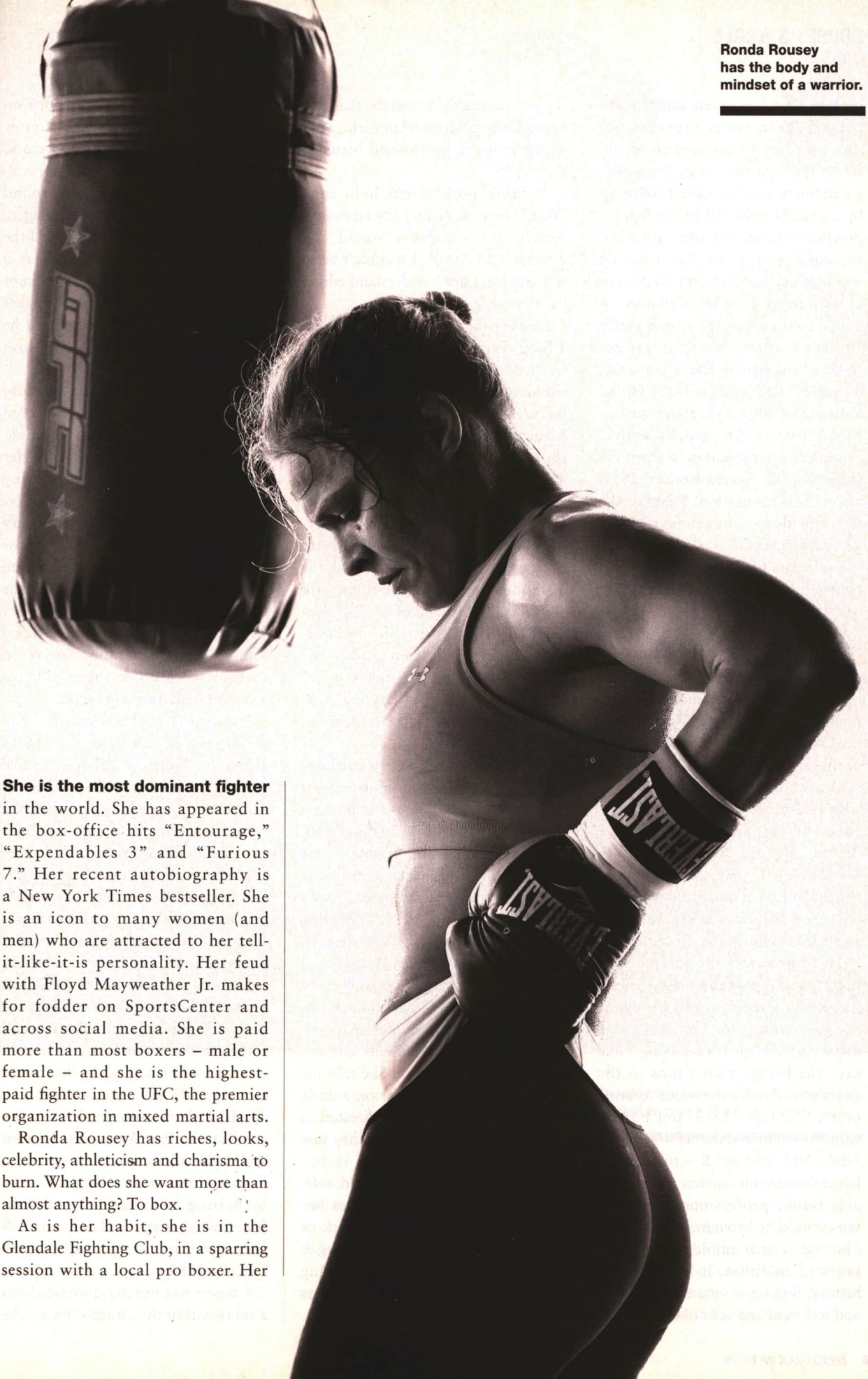
RONDA ROUSEY
DREAMS OF BOXING BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, SHE'S LIVING THE DREAM AS MMA'S BIGGEST STAR

By **Gary Andrew Poole**

Photographs by **Eric Williams**

OUSEY'S WORLD



Ronda Rousey has the body and mindset of a warrior.

She is the most dominant fighter in the world. She has appeared in the box-office hits "Entourage," "Expendables 3" and "Furious 7." Her recent autobiography is a New York Times bestseller. She is an icon to many women (and men) who are attracted to her tell-it-like-it-is personality. Her feud with Floyd Mayweather Jr. makes for fodder on SportsCenter and across social media. She is paid more than most boxers – male or female – and she is the highest-paid fighter in the UFC, the premier organization in mixed martial arts.

Ronda Rousey has riches, looks, celebrity, athleticism and charisma to burn. What does she want more than almost anything? To box.

As is her habit, she is in the Glendale Fighting Club, in a sparring session with a local pro boxer. Her

blonde hair is hidden underneath her headgear, sweat drenches her shirt and her 14-ounce red gloves are flying through the air as she works a combination: a short left followed by a straight right. All MMA fighters practice striking with their arms and legs but Rousey prefers a pure boxing workout and concentrates 90 percent of her training on it. She is winding up a little too much on the second punch and her trainer is trying to get her to be a little tighter. She is preparing for a UFC fight against Holly Holm, a decorated southpaw boxer-turned-MMA fighter. She works with a pissed-off determination to learn the sweet science. Ronda Rousey, 28, is a worldwide sensation. Whether she is a world-class boxer is a highly debatable question.

She wants to go down as the best fighter, male or female, in the history of combat sports.

To become the Greatest of All Time, she has a very Ronda Rousey dream: The judo Olympic medalist wants to retain her UFC bantamweight (135 pounds) belt, win a professional jiu-jitsu world championship and earn a professional boxing world title.

She knows many boxing fans won't be thrilled to see her on the cover of THE RING. This is the Bible of Boxing. Non-disciples are not always welcome. She knows that being the first woman on the cover will generate controversy and even anger from some. "For those that are kind, I appreciate the acceptance," she says. "And for those who aren't, I appreciate them caring enough. I am not a boxer but I am positively impacting the sport of boxing." She says she brings young fans to the sweet science. And she wants to bring more. She says MMA and boxing should work in concert – like the NBA, NFL and MLB – to create a larger fanbase for combat sports. (She also thinks professional wrestling fans should be brought into the fold: "Boxing is such an old sport. It has years of tradition. It has so much history. Boxing is secure and proper and technical and scientific. Wrestling is all about the show and the flair and being fancy and entertainment. And MMA is the happy hybrid between the two.")

"I think both sports help each other," she says, calling any animosity between the two sports "stupid." "If it weren't for MMA, I wouldn't be so into boxing. I don't understand why it has to be one or the other."

Rousey Corporation does have a long reach. On social media, she has 1.8 million Twitter followers. In the magazine world, she has been featured on the cover of ESPN: The Magazine and Sports Illustrated, and she has been the subject of articles in TIME and The New Yorker, among many others. On television, she was the star-coach on the UFC's reality-promotional series, "The Ultimate Fighter," on Fox Sports and she is a frequent guest on late-night talk shows and a favorite of TMZ. When she has a fight, she is in the news. When she is between fights her burgeoning film career takes center stage. Or, if the publicity machine needs a kick, she will perform for the WWE.

Because she is well-spoken, attractive, aspirational, controversial and a winner, she is the only modern fighter to attain mainstream U.S. media acceptance. Her popularity led to $6.5 million in earnings (including $3 million for endorsements) from June 2014 to June 2015, according to Forbes. Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao get paid considerably more but her partly fun-loving, partly edgy personality has helped her grow beyond the pay-per-view world and will help her chances for long-term relevance. She tells me that people approach her on a daily basis and say they are interested in MMA and boxing because "they saw me fight."

For all her popularity and self-confidence, she acknowledges her place – or more accurately lack of place – in boxing. To her, boxing is a mysterious art that she is trying desperately to master. The sport has consumed her for years.

Ronda Jean Rousey was born on Feb. 1, 1987, to parents Ron Rousey and AnnMaria DeMars, a 1984 world judo champion. Ronda was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck, her vocal chords damaged. She didn't speak coherently until the age of 6. From 6 to 10 she was a swimmer who competed on the Junior Olympic swim team. (She tells me that if she wasn't a fighter, she would be a Coast Guard rescue diver. "I love pressure situations," she says.)

She didn't watch much fighting when she was a kid. She didn't even know about her mother's storied judo career until she was 8 years old. Her father had suffered a debilitating accident and committed suicide by asphyxia. He and Ronda were very close and the subject is still very raw for her. Her father had encouraged her swim career, so after his death she didn't want to swim competitively anymore. As she says: "One day I found a scrapbook and discovered that my mom was a super badass." She eventually turned to judo.

By age 17 she became the youngest judoka in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens but she saw her inability to win a medal as a failure. "I had lost tournaments before but I had never felt this level of crushing devastation," she wrote in "My Fight / Your Fight," her autobiography. "To be a competitor on the world's biggest stage was not enough. I was there for one reason: I was there to win." That same year she won a gold medal at the World Junior Judo Championships in Budapest and in 2006 she became the first U.S. female in almost 10 years to win the gold at the World Cup. In 2007 she won a silver at the World Judo Championships and a gold at the Pan American Games. Then the ultimate judo prize: a bronze at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, making her the first American to win a medal in women's judo since it became an Olympic sport in 1992.

Rousey was heavily decorated but a rebel within the establishment. She

Rousey survived a difficult post-judo period to reach the top of the world.

was a precocious teenager who would fight random people at the mall for her favorite drink: Frappuccinos.

As her judo career wound down, she struggled financially and with a growing unease about her future. With the money she was awarded for winning her Olympic medal she bought a used, gold Honda Accord (she had to finance half of it), and even lived out of it for a short time. She worked as a bartender and eventually fell into drinking heavily and not exercising. She would "gaze out at the ocean while rolling on Vicodin, drinking whiskey at noon and watching dolphins in the waves." From 2008 to 2009, she says she didn't have any aspirations.

A former training partner encouraged her to begin training again. She did, and it triggered something that had been planted in 2007. Rousey had been with friends when they watched a fight between Gina Carano and Julie Kedzie. "I was stunned; I didn't even know women fought in MMA," she says. "I kept

seeing all the mistakes the girls were making, all their lost opportunities, and I knew, even then, even though I had never done MMA, that I could beat both of them."

As she started renewing her fitness, she was even more swept up in the MMA craze. She was training with Armenian fighters and some of them were going to Glendale, California, to learn striking skills from Edmond Tarverdyan, who has trained former two-division boxing titleholder Vic Darchinyan. Rousey started going to his gym. She trained alone, trying to get Tarverdyan's attention. She would stay in the gym for six hours. Tarverdyan ignored her. In his estimation there was no serious future for women in MMA. As he trained male fighters, Rousey would mimic the boxing workouts.

Tarverdyan, a fastidious man who at one time was a professional kickboxer, has owned his own gym since he was 16 years old. Finally, after being continuously pressed, he relented and trained Rousey for an amateur MMA bout in 2010. "I didn't even know her last name at her first amateur fight," says Tarverdyan, picking up a gum wrapper off his gym floor. Before the fight, Tarverdyan observed her in the locker room and still remembers her wild-eyed focus. At that point, he knew he had a fighter. When she entered the ring he was surprised by her speed and explosiveness. After she won, he texted Rousey's manager and said he would like to know her last name. The next day, at around 4 p.m., Tarverdyan went online to learn more about the fighter he had so carefully ignored. On YouTube, her fight already had 150,000 views. "Holy s--t, how is this possible? This girl just fought and she already has a following!"

She fought on a lower-level pro circuit and then signed with Strikeforce, where she had four fights, all first-round wins. While Dana White, the UFC's president, had famously claimed that he would never permit a female division, it was

THE ROUSEY EFFECT

WOMEN BOXERS HOPE THAT THE MMA STAR'S SUCCESS WILL OPEN DOORS FOR THEM

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Layla McCarter had never heard of Ronda Rousey when her friend, martial arts legend "Judo" Gene LeBell, asked her about sparring with the Olympic bronze medalist and budding mixed martial artist a few years back.

"He asked me if I would work with this girl that's really good and his little judo star," the multi-division world champ said. The sparring session didn't happen, as the fighters' schedules didn't line up, but McCarter did hear about "Rowdy" Ronda again.

"Later, I see this girl everywhere," she laughs. "Ronda Rousey, Ronda Rousey. I never expected that."

Who did?

With an Olympic judo pedigree, a perfect MMA record and a UFC women's bantamweight championship, Rousey has taken over the combat sports world and become a true phenomenon. She has appeared as a guest on "Ellen," several late-night talk shows, hosted ESPN SportsCenter and was recently on the cover of Sports Illustrated, whose editors labeled her "the world's most dominant athlete."

The only other female fighter to make the cover of the iconic sports magazine was Christy Martin, who was featured in 1996.

"When I see the cover today, I think of a carnival thing where you can put your face on the cover of any magazine you want," Martin laughs. "It's like, 'Wow, that really was me.' It's hard to believe."

With Rousey, it's not all that hard to believe. The Californian has changed the perception of female fighters. The question now is whether her success will have an impact on her boxing counterparts.

"You always have to have hope, right?" McCarter asks. "But nobody even knows what we're about. There's a lot of good talent in women's boxing that hasn't been discovered because we're basically fighting in the dark. The hope is that there's a promoter that will see Ronda Rousey and realize that there's something that can be done with female fighters. It just takes somebody that has that vision."

Somebody in the U.S., specifically, as the women's boxing scene outside the states is stronger than at any time in history. Norway's Cecilia Braekhus, the undisputed welterweight champion and THE RING's pound-for-pound queen, is a prime example of what can happen in the sport with the right exposure and promotion.

"She (Rousey) has risen to become this huge star but in Europe and Latin America we really have some big female stars," Braekhus said. "But America has such an impact on the rest of the world that when there's no big female boxer, that gives the impression that female boxing may be more down than it really is. Susi Kentikian just started her own business like I did and she just had her own show, which was hugely successful. We have Delfine Persoon in Belgium. She's so popular, as well as Christine Hammer in Germany. There are the Mexican girls and we have Hanna Gabriel, who sold out a football stadium in Costa Rica."

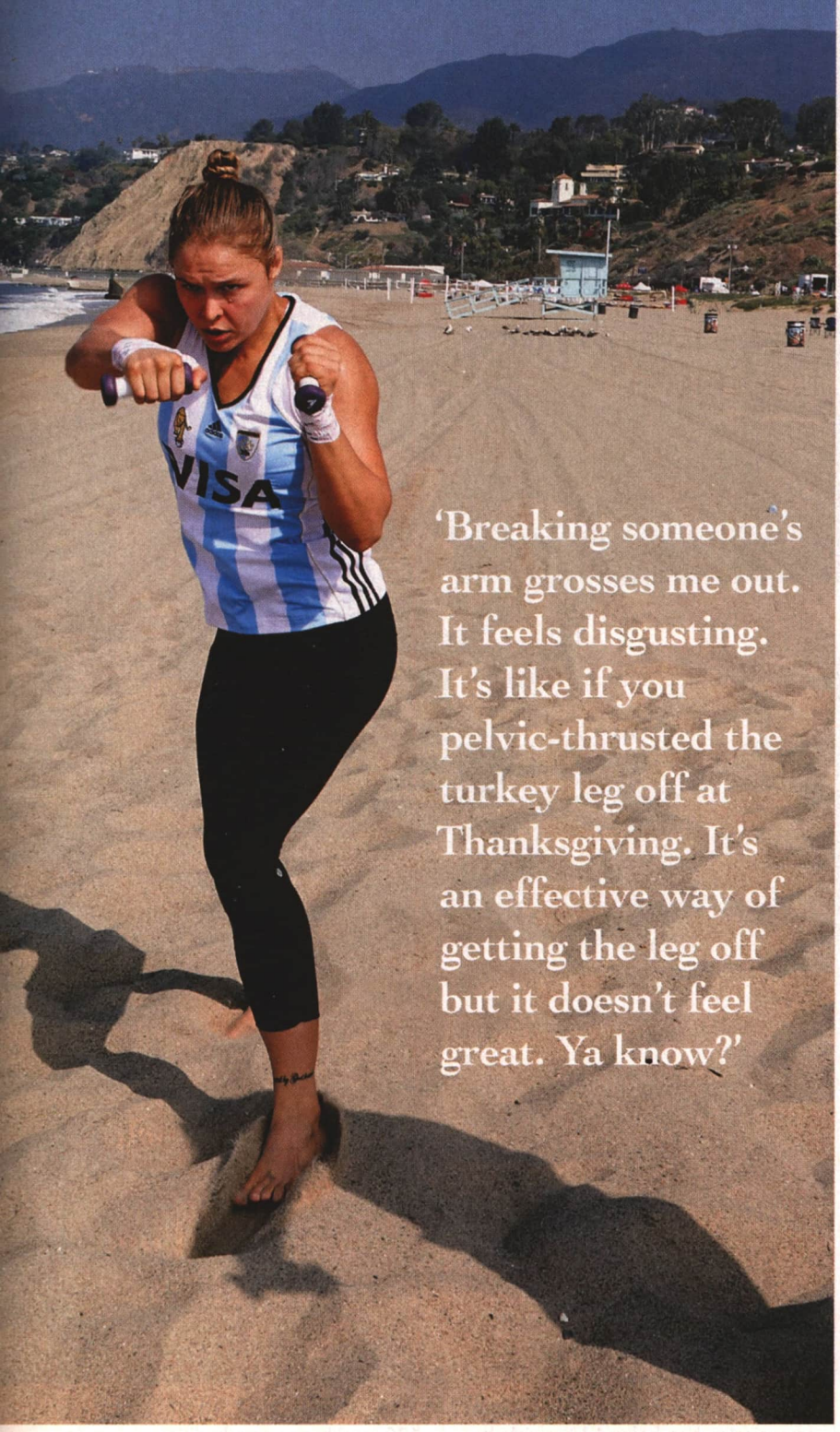
Braekhus points to 2012 U.S. Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields as a prime example of the kind of boxer who can achieve Rousey-esque fame but she believes boxing's built-in biases have kept the ladies from reaching that next level.

"Claressa Shields, in my opinion, is the biggest talent in decades," Braekhus said. "Sponsors should be throwing themselves at her. If this was another place in the world, she would be bigger than Ronda. But MMA is pretty new and they don't have this old history like boxing has with the male fighters. I think in America they're a little bit stuck because they've had so many huge American male boxers. It's all about promotion. Ronda Rousey is an excellent athlete and a wonderful martial artist but the promotion around her, they've done brilliant work with her, absolutely perfect. If they had done the same with a female boxer, they should have the same result."

So who's going to step up like UFC president Dana White did with Rousey and give a female boxer that chance? The original Sports Illustrated cover star has a couple ideas.

"The only way to help women in boxing is for Oscar (De La Hoya) to get a young female fighter that can fight and start putting her on shows, or for Al Haymon, somebody that has lots of TV dates, to really start to push a woman fighter," Martin said. "That's what Dana White did. He put Ronda Rousey out there on a regular basis on the UFC pay-per-view cards so she's been able to build up a following.

"In order to have a female fighter in boxing do that, we're just gonna have to get a promoter that's willing to bite the bullet and say, 'Hey, I'm gonna stand by this woman fighter.'" ★



'Breaking someone's arm grosses me out. It feels disgusting. It's like if you pelvic-thrusted the turkey leg off at Thanksgiving. It's an effective way of getting the leg off but it doesn't feel great. Ya know?'

becoming obvious that Rousey was a star. They needed each other.

As many of the UFC's original male fighters started to retire and some of its newer fighters fell into various legal problems, Rousey represented something new and fresh. It was impossible to ignore her charisma. On Feb. 23, 2013, Rousey fought and beat Liz Carmouche

Rousey focuses most of her training on boxing in or out of the gym.

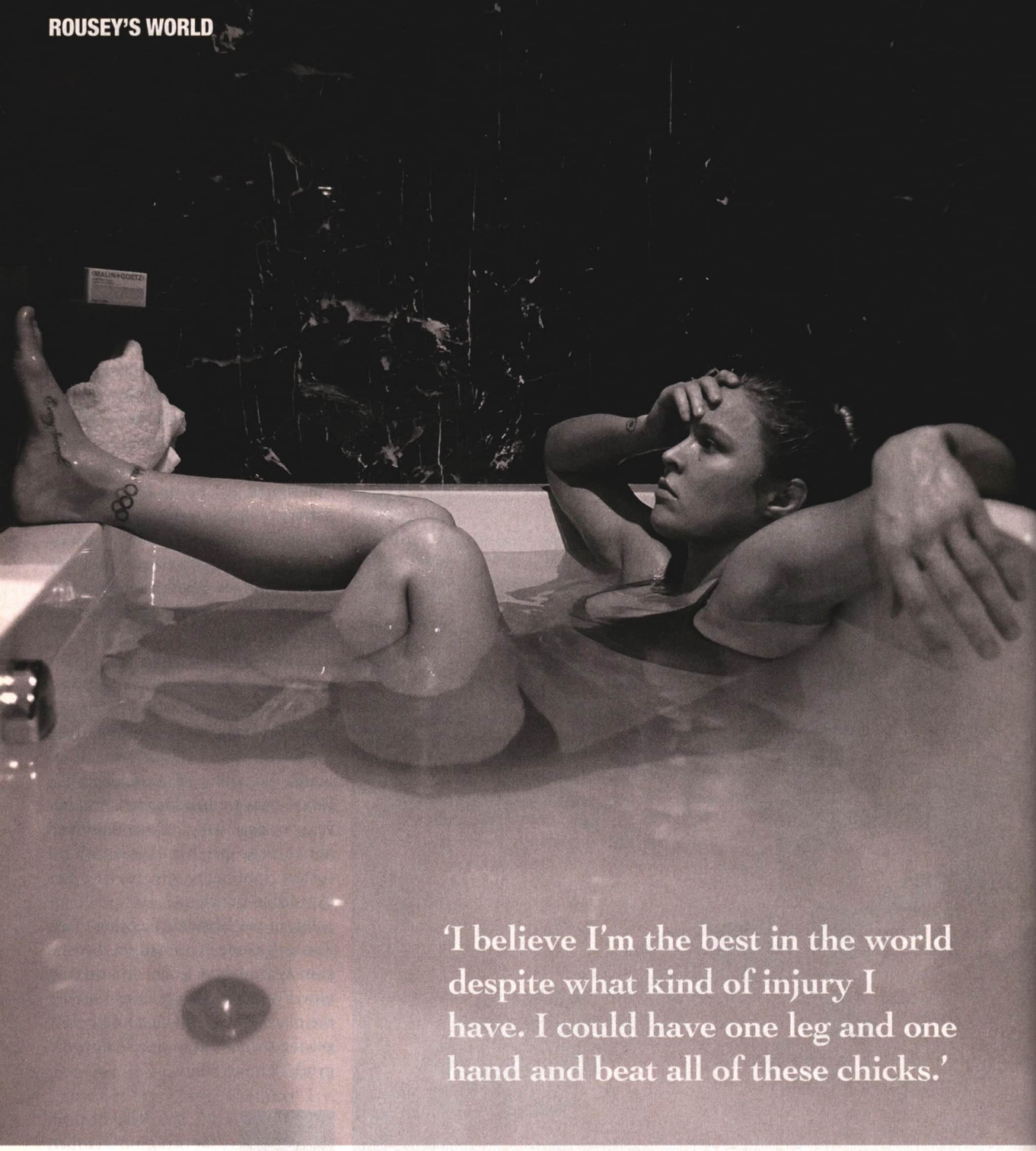
in the first round and became the first UFC women's bantamweight champion. She is now, easily, the outfit's biggest star.

Since her amateur debut, she has never lost an MMA fight, winning the majority in the first round by something called an armbar, a technique used to hyperextend someone's elbow. Rousey is almost apologetic about her signature move. "Breaking someone's arm grosses me out," she says. "It feels disgusting. It's like if you pelvic thrusted the turkey leg off at Thanksgiving. It's an effective way of getting the leg off but it doesn't feel great. Ya know?" she says, laughing. It's this sort of sharing, Girl Power honesty mixed with crude humor that makes her an attractive figure to what she calls the "Instagram generation." She says she prefers to knock someone out with a punch. "Knocking someone out feels better. A knockout is cleaner. And they will be all right. With the armbar, it is so brutal that sometimes I feel a little bit bad about it."

Rousey rarely practices judo or the grappling arts anymore. She has had a 6-year obsession with boxing. To make her a better boxer, Tarverdyan has had to work through some of his pupil's old habits. For example, while Rousey has tremendous balance, her years of practicing judo conditioned her to drop her hands (to grab on to her opponent's gi), leaving her exposed to punches.

But in the Glendale Fighting Club, Rousey's name is printed on the ring canvas and her worn out boxing gloves and awards are hung all over the place. The girl who could barely get the owner's attention is now the gym's claim to fame.

On a Thursday morning in October, Rousey (12-0, 6-0 UFC) trains to defend her title on Nov. 14 in Melbourne, Australia, against fellow unbeaten fighter Holm (9-0, 2-0 UFC). As a pro boxer, Holm was 33-2 and named THE RING's "Female Fighter of the Year" in 2005 and 2006. "Ronda beats Holly Holm in a boxing match," says Tarverdyan. "Her punching is too precise; she is always on top of you. Holly isn't



'I believe I'm the best in the world despite what kind of injury I have. I could have one leg and one hand and beat all of these chicks.'

what Ronda is."

It is difficult to completely assess her boxing skills from watching her MMA fights. Tarverdyan, who is now employed by Rousey, claims she is the best female boxer in the world. While she only has 6 years of experience, he calculates that her skillset belies her lack of boxing experience because she has worked 4-6 hours every day. He also believes her combat sport experience has helped her with her footwork and ring generalship. He compares her to Gennady Golovkin. "Ronda knows how to close the gaps ... she can punch inside, she can punch from middle distances. She can jab the s--t out of you. Inside or outside, she is going to take the fight to you and beat you in every area," he says. "Ronda's boxing skills are amazing." He says she averages 100-120 punches a round.

When she spars, she looks like a pro boxer, especially in her control of the ring. She does tend to follow her punches instead of creating angles, her jab can be inconsistent and her punches can be a little wide, sometimes resembling the standard MMA style. Her head can be very still, too, but Tarverdyan says it's simply a reaction to sparring partners

Rousey is only 28 but has been fighting for 17 years.

with a short reach. She tends to cut off the ring quickly and overwhelm her opponent with rapid-fire punches. "She drops 90 percent of her sparring partners," says her trainer. In a recent session, Rousey sparred with junior lightweight (130 pounds; boxing and UFC use different weight limits) Lissette Medel, who is a 9-1 pro boxer. After four rounds, Medel said she was impressed with Rousey's skills.

Abel Sanchez, Golovkin's trainer, has hosted her in his gym in Big Bear, California. "As a pure boxer she has some things to learn," he says. "She still punches like an amateur, her punches are not extended. But I've seen improvement in how she punches and in how she sets up the punches." In the female boxing pantheon, Sanchez ranks Leila Ali, Christy Martin, and Lucia Rijker as his Top 3. "She will never get to that level because MMA is not boxing. If she was just concentrating on boxing, definitely she would. She is torn between two arts."

Given the circumstances, it's difficult to see that changing during Rousey's prime.

"The UFC owns me," she says. "They got me. Honestly, they have me for more fights than I will do. Even when I retire they will have me. I approached the UFC with the idea of boxing. I wasn't the first one. And they are not big fans of it. I think getting crossover appeal would be amazing for boxing. And boxing people might like what they see and start looking at MMA."

Her dream to completely rule combat sports – to win world and Olympic medals in judo (complete), a UFC world title (complete), a jiu-jitsu world championship (incomplete) and a boxing world title (incomplete) – seems beyond her reach.

nd now she is in the gym. On the wall it states: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE. There are posters of Rousey everywhere. On the boxing canvas is printed "RRR" – Rowdy Ronda Rousey. She is in the gym today not as a fighter but as a celebrity. Her right knee is wrapped. People always ask her about it. "How's my leg? It's still attached to me," she smiles. She has suffered from arthritis since she was 19. She has had four knee surgeries. She had a modeling gig earlier in the week, somewhere in the desert, and they made her jump up and down. "Like you do," she says wryly. She has no cartilage in the knee. Other body parts are wearing down, too. She has been an athlete for 17 years and the end of her fighting career will probably come in two years. She wears a boxing robe and she turns on the practiced smiles or scowls with equal professionalism. The photographer says, "Perfect." During breaks, she signs several hundred autographs as she munches on dried seaweed.

"I understand my own mortality," she says. "I almost had to quit judo because it was so hard on my body. I just never pull out of fights. I don't talk about my injuries much. I believe I'm the best in the world despite what kind of injury I have. I could have one leg and one hand and beat all of these chicks. I want to do it as long as I can but it's not forever. I want to be one of the rare ones who retires on top and doesn't stick around too long."

Just that morning, the Hollywood trade papers announced that Rousey would star and produce in a remake of Patrick Swayze's '80s classic, "Road House." In the original Swayze plays a bouncer hired to clean up one of the rowdiest, loudest bars in Missouri. Rousey will play the bouncer. But she is more interested in talking about boxing: Ali, Tyson, Golovkin. Mayweather is brought up. Her lips tighten. The two have exchanged putdowns. "I've always been really respectful of his skills as a boxer and as an athlete. But ... it really hurt my feelings when that wasn't returned and he went out of his way to insult me. If he would have been nice and polite from the beginning, I would have been the same."

Most recently, Mayweather said, "I've yet to see any MMA fighter, or other boxer, make over $300 million in 36 minutes. When she can do that, then call me."

She returned fire: "I think I actually make two to three times more than he does per second ... so when he learns to read and write, he can text me."

She has claimed that she would beat him in an MMA fight but she also says, "I don't think it's a great idea to have a man hitting a woman on television."

Despite the war of words, she says, "I'm trying, as I get older, to have more faith in people and be less judgmental. I'm really impressed with Mike Tyson, all the work he has done over the years to make himself a better man. I would like to see that sort of effort coming from Floyd. And if I did, I would commend him for it. But, unfortunately, I have not. I'm not running around throwing his name out there for attention, I'm getting attention in other ways and I don't need his name."

As the photo shoot winds down, Rousey reflects on her fame and fortune and says that it all starts with the work she puts in at the gym. The gym community centers her. Will she ever get to test herself as boxer – as she would like – or will she remain an MMA fighter until she retires? At this point, she can't really control it. And she doesn't really know if there is much of a difference to most sports fans anyway.

"I hope to go down as one of the best fighters of all time," she says, adding. "And not have the word 'woman' in it." RING

Roman Gonzalez is only six victories from the 49-0 mark of Rocky Marciano and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

OCON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SUPER FLY

NEW POUND-FOR-POUND **KING ROMAN GONZALEZ** PROVES THAT THERE'S ROOM AT THE TOP FOR LITTLE MEN

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Sometimes boxing looks down the scale to find someone it can look up to. It's a search brought on by change and driven by economics or demographics or controversy or boredom with the old amid impatience for the new.

This time it has led to Roman Gonzalez, all 5 feet 3 inches of him, and the first fighter from the smallest weight classes to be picked No. 1 in the 26-year history of THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings. Never before has a Lord of the Flies been elevated to king of pound-for-pound royalty.

But there he is, Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s successor at No. 1, not only for THE RING but ESPN.com and

other pound-for-pound lists too. It's important to remember that too much can be made of pound-for-pound politics. It's a debate, a poll. It's called mythic for a reason.

After all, Gonzalez, the indisputable champion at 112 pounds before he faced Brian Viloria at New York's Madison Square Garden on Oct. 17, will never fight Wladimir Klitschko or Gennady Golovkin or Sergey Kovalev or Andre Ward. Still, it's fun to wonder and argue about how his skillset, instinct and durability would fare against them if they all weighed the same. Those are fights fought only in the imagination. But the imagined is one reason Fantasy Leagues are so popular.

From a bar stool in smoky saloons during the late 1940s and early 1950s, it worked when the pound-for-pound debate was introduced because of welterweight and middleweight Sugar Ray Robinson, who just looked to be better than any of the heavyweights with all the headlines and most of the money.

Then it was a boozy argument. Now it's virtual reality, still impossible to settle in blood, bruises and scars yet unmistakably entertaining and significant for what it says about boxing's history and perhaps its future.

Its meaning hasn't been lost on Gonzalez, who also has held titles at 105 pounds (strawweight) and 108 (junior flyweight). He understands and embraces the history, both as boxing's lightest ever to be No. 1 and his personal past with a late Nicaraguan legend, Alexis Arguello, a pound-for-pound contender in a bygone era.

"All of it makes this very, very special," Gonzalez said through his attorney and manager, Carlos Blandon, while preparing for Viloria at a training camp in Costa Rica. "When I couldn't afford to buy boxing equipment, I never could have imagined this."

Only Arguello, ranked 20th among THE RING's hardest punchers of all time and voted The Associated Press' No. 1 junior lightweight of the 20th century, might have imagined it. He first met Gonzalez when Roman was 12 years old and in the early stages of going a reported 88-0 as an amateur.

By then, Arguello's Hall of Fame career was history. He retired in 1986, or three years before THE RING began publishing its pound-for-pound list in 1989. He returned for two fights, going 1-1 in 1994 and 1995, in a forgettable comeback.

THE RING's list and ESPN were after his time. Had they been around in his heyday, he probably would have been among the Top 5 or 6, yet never No. 1 in a mix with Sugar Ray

BIG LITTLE MEN

Roman Gonzalez, the new RING pound-for-pound king, has brought renewed respect to the smallest boxers. Here are five of his most accomplished predecessors at junior flyweight and flyweight over the past 30 years.

HUMBERTO GONZALEZ

Record: 43-3, 30 KOs
Active: 1984-95
Background: The mighty Mexican national was fortunate to have the perfect foil in Michael Carbajal, who he narrowly outpointed in two of three unforgettable meetings. Remarkably, they had the same record in title fights: 15-3. "Chiquita" had many of his biggest fights in Los Angeles, where he became very popular.

MICHAEL CARBAJAL

Record: 49-4, 33 KOs
Active: 1989-99
Background: The 1988 Olympic silver medalist relied on both boxing ability and lethal punching power to win five major 108-pound belts inside a record of 15-3 in world title fights. He is remembered for his warlike trilogy with Humberto Gonzalez. Carbajal went 1-2 against his rival but his KO victory in their first fight stands out most.

MARK JOHNSON

Record: 44-5, 28 KOs
Active: 1990-2006
Background: "Too Sharp" was very sharp, bringing an unusually effective combination of speed and skills to the ring as a flyweight and junior bantamweight. He won the 112-pound title against Francisco Tejedor in 1996 and successfully defended seven times. He met his match in bantamweight Rafael Marquez in 2001 and was never the same.

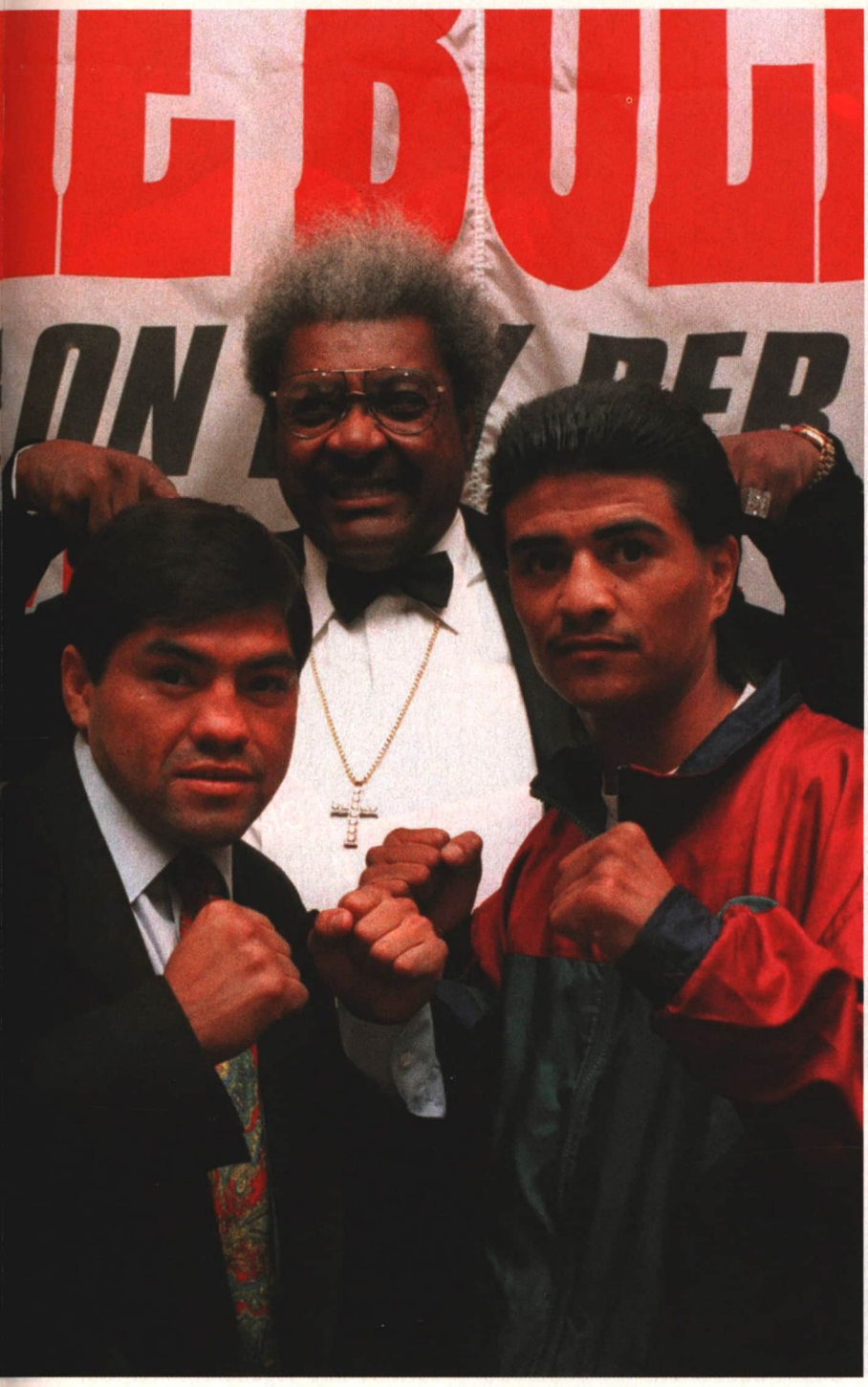
PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM

Record: 90-5-2, 47 KOs
Active: 1994-2013
Background: Wonjongkam served as WBC flyweight titleholder for eight years over two reigns but never fought outside his native Thailand or Japan. He went 22-2-2 in title fights, including 20 successful defenses overall. He also won 55 consecutive fights in the middle of his career, one of the longest streaks of his era.

OMAR NARVAEZ

Record: 43-2-2 (23 KOs)
Active: 2000-present
Background: Narvaez's career is winding down as he approaches 40 but we shouldn't forget how consistently good he was for so long. The Argentine was the WBO flyweight champ from 2002 to 2010, which included 16 successful defenses before he finally vacated the title. He went 29-0-2 as a flyweight.

THE RING MAGAZINE



Humberto Gonzalez (left) and Michael Carbajal were the stars of a golden era for little fighters.

Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran.

On one level, Gonzalez's ascension to the top is as much about Arguello as it is him. He talks about the No. 1 ranking almost as though it belongs to Arguello. He wouldn't be there, he says, without his fellow Nicaraguan, who taught him his skills and even gave him his trademark nickname, "Chocolatito."

"Of everybody, I believe Alexis is the happiest about this," said Gonzalez, who took the title belt he won in September 2014 in a stoppage of Akira Yaegashi to Arguello's grave in Managua.

Arguello died of a gunshot wound on July 1, 2009, within a year of his election as mayor of Nicaragua's capital city in November 2008. It was ruled a suicide but his death remains a mystery. Gonzalez remembers hearing about it on the radio after doing some roadwork. His mentor and hero was gone, yet he still talks about him as though he's always there.

"I see him smiling right now," Gonzalez said. "Any time I'm in the ring, I hear his voice. He taught me crosses, hooks and how and when to set up combinations. People compare me to Alexis. But I don't believe that. He's No. 1."

One thing is certain. Arguello lives on in the way Gonzalez fights, especially with his hooks off the jab.

"The first time I saw him, I thought I was watching Arguello," Hall of Fame junior flyweight Michael Carbajal said before the Gonzalez-Viloria fight. "He's good, especially with those fundamentals. I'm not sure how he'll react the first time somebody with real power touches his chin. But from what I've seen, he deserves to be No. 1."

History links Carbajal and Roman Gonzalez. Carbajal, now 48 and still living in his hometown of Phoenix, represents the beginning of the pound-for-pound evolution of fighters in the flyweight classes. In 1990, a South Korean junior flyweight, Myung Woo Yuh, broke into the Top 10 at No. 9. But it was three years later, in 1993, when the little guys began to become a big factor in the pound-for-pound debate

In 1993 Carbajal was rated No. 4 after his seventh-round stoppage of Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez in what was a Fight of the Year and is still the biggest fight in flyweight history. For the first time, flyweights were taken seriously.

Before Carbajal-Gonzalez I, they were dismissed, an undercard sideshow as relevant as midget wrestling. But the history-making

MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

bout put flyweights in the discussion and created a new market for promoters at a time when the heavyweights had begun their long decline. Carbajal's pound-for-pound emergence happened a year after Mike Tyson, No. 1 on THE RING's inaugural pound-for-pound list, began a prison sentence in Indiana on a sexual-assault conviction.

Twenty-two years after the boxing business looked down the scale and found a fly to fill a void left by Tyson, the process repeats itself. This time it's Roman Gonzalez moving into a vacancy left by Mayweather's announced retirement from a career that will be remembered for record-setting revenues and its own controversy.

But there's an important difference today: The game's smallest fighters have proven to be reliable commodities since the Carbajal-Gonzalez milestone. There was a lot more than just Carbajal in 1993, though. There was also Ricardo Lopez, who made his pound-for-pound debut that year at No. 7.

Roman Gonzalez made a big splash in his HBO debut in May, stopping Edgar Sosa in the second round.

Lopez, a longtime strawweight champion who also won a junior flyweight title, would appear among the Top 10 in seven more years (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001), including No. 3 in '95. Many consider Lopez to be the best little fighter ever. His record (51-0-1, 38 knockouts) doesn't include a loss. He equaled Joe Louis' record of 26 successful title defenses. Among the acknowledged giants in boxing's history of the little guys, Gonzalez admires Lopez the most.

"For me, Lopez is the one," Gonzalez said. "He boxed so nicely."

Before Viloria, Gonzalez's goals included his own unbeaten legacy. At 43-0 (37 KOs) and still more than a year away from his 30th birthday, Gonzalez was only six victories from 49-0, the Rocky Marciano milestone that Mayweather equaled against Andre Berto on Sept. 12 in what he said was his final fight.

But Lopez's income didn't reflect his brilliant record or his pound-for-pound credentials. It was as if he got paid by the pound. He, with Don King as his promoter, collected checks averaging between $35,000 and $50,000, according to various sources in Las Vegas and his native Mexico.

"Like they say, it takes two to tango," said Rafael Mendoza, a journalist, manager and Hall of Fame inductee in 2015. "You've got to find a business partner. Ricardo Lopez was great. But he never had that partner."

Mendoza, of Guadalajara, managed Humberto Gonzalez's career. That included big money in the Mexican's memorable trilogy with Carbajal, who won an Olympic silver medal for the U.S. at the 1988 Seoul Games.

They were the first fighters in either of the flyweight divisions (108 and 112) to fight for seven-figure purses in the sequels to their 1993 fight.

Carbajal got a seven-figure check in the first rematch, which Gonzalez won in 1994 by split decision in Los Angeles. Later that year Gonzalez collected seven figures in the second rematch, which he also won by majority decision in Mexico City.

Carbajal and Gonzalez are the first and still the only flyweights to break the million-dollar milestone for a single fight. No flyweight has joined them in that income bracket since, according to Gary Gittelsohn, Viloria's manager, adviser and attorney.

"That was the last particular time that the flyweights had captured the imagination of the general public," said Gittelsohn, who has always argued that the major networks – HBO and Showtime – have mostly ignored them because of "a bias" against the lightest divisions.

Even Roman Gonzalez has yet to crack the million-dollar ranks despite being the successor to Mayweather, who earned GDP-like money, including about $300 million for just two fights –Manny Pacquiao and Berto – in 2015.

Remember those photos a few months ago of Mayweather packing travel bags full of cash? There was probably more money in one than there has ever been in a Roman Gonzalez paycheck.

According to contracts filed with the California State Athletic Commission, Gonzalez collected $200,000 for his second-round stoppage of Edgar Sosa at The Forum in Inglewood in a May 16 bout, Gonzalez's fourth appearance in the U.S. The bout was televised by HBO on a card featuring Golovkin's victory over Willie Monroe Jr.

Gonzalez has been fighting mostly in Japan since he signed a deal with Teiken nearly two years ago. His entry to the U.S. market on HBO, which televised his bout against Viloria on pay-per-view, is seen as a springboard to bigger money. Nearly three weeks before the Viloria bout, his exact purse was not known. But it fell short of the million dollars earned by Carbajal and Humberto Gonzalez.

"Chocolatito's ascendancy has stirred the pot a bit," Gittelsohn said. "So I think you can begin to see purses rising to more meaningful levels."

In part, Viloria, a Filipino-American and a 2000 Olympian at the Sydney Games, represents Gonzalez's attempt to earn dollars against a U.S. fighter.

"The U.S. is another market for him," Mendoza said. "But can Viloria be a good dance partner for him? Carbajal and Chiquita were the perfect match. Bob Arum had Carbajal at the time. We knew very early that we could make money with them. And we did.

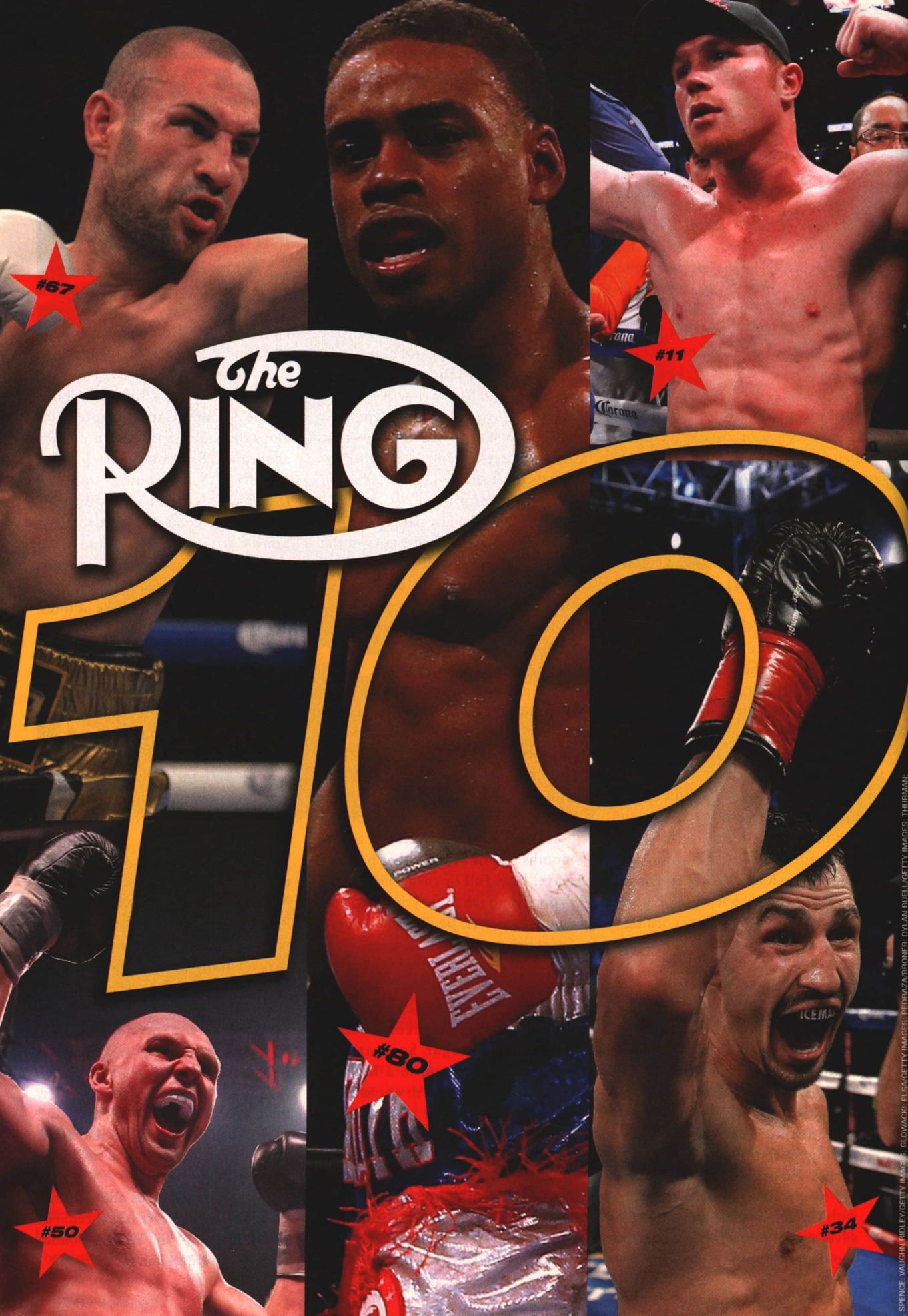
"Roman went to Japan, signed with Teiken, because there are fights for him there. He can make money in Asia. But I'm not sure if there are any real marketable Americans at that weight right now. If not, there's a chance to make money against some of the Mexicans, including a rematch with (Juan Francisco) Estrada.

"Other than that, Chocolatito is a great story. He could be to Nicaragua, I think, what Manny Pacquiao is to the Philippines. But without that American rival, a real business partner, he could be another Ricardo Lopez."

Gittelsohn, however, thinks Gonzalez's arrival heralds a new era in which the flyweights can get as rich as they have been respected.

"I think we finally have the sun, the moon and the stars all aligned," said Gittelsohn, who is also fond of saying that there are no bums among the flyweights.

For about as long as anybody can remember, there never have been. For proof, just go to the RING's pound-for-pound ratings and look up.



SPENCE: VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES; GLOWACKI: FLSA/GETTY IMAGES; PEDRAZA/BRONER: DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES; THURMAN:

OUR ANNUAL RANKING OF THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD

Compiled by **DAVID GREISMAN, MARTIN MULCAHEY AND ANSON WAINWRIGHT**

Written by **DAVID GREISMAN**

Among those who made the RING 100 are (clockwise from top left) Jose Pedraza, Errol Spence, Canelo Alvarez, Adrien Broner, Keith Thurman, Adonis Stevenson, Viktor Postol and Krzysztof Glowacki.

For the first time in some time, there's a brand new face atop the annual RING 100. Floyd Mayweather Jr. may call himself The Best Ever but with his retirement that means that Roman Gonzalez is our No. 1 boxer in the world.

The RING flyweight champion and former 105- and 108-pound titleholder had already built a devout following among hardcore and international audiences. He is now beginning to draw more people into the cult of El Chocolatito, thanks to his appearances underneath Gennady Golovkin's fights in 2015 on HBO and pay-per-view.

So much else has changed since we last checked in. This year's list includes many of the familiar faces, though some of their careers are headed on different trajectories. It also brings the arrival of many new names whose accomplishments and skills are beginning to earn them wider recognition. In fact, one-third of this RING 100 was unranked the previous time this list was compiled.

Boxing writers David Greisman, Martin Mulcahey and Anson Wainwright — in collaboration with the RING editors — have the often entertaining, occasionally aggravating task of sorting it all out, taking THE RING's pound-for-pound list and expanding beyond it tenfold. They have sorted through the 17 weight classes and the sport as a whole, going one by one in their own lists, debating and discussing and revisiting and revising.

It's a subjective list but it's a fun subject. It's also a good snapshot of who the best in the sport are now, who the best in the sport might be in the future, and many of the other titleholders, contenders, prospects and accomplished veterans who want to be where Gonzalez is right now. »

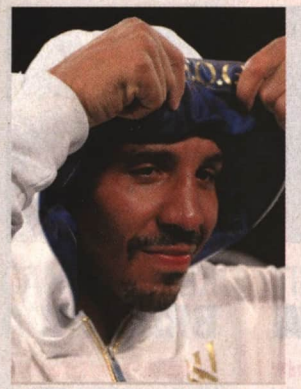
1. ROMAN GONZALEZ

The Rundown: Flyweight (RING and WBC titles) ★ Record: 43-0 (37 KOs) ★ Last year: 6.

The Reasons: One of boxing's best-kept secrets isn't so secret anymore with people finally getting a chance to see what makes him so compelling. Gonzalez punched his way to a title reign at strawweight from 2008 to 2010 and then did the same at junior flyweight from 2011 to 2012. The latter stretch includes a decision over Juan Francisco Estrada, who went on to become a flyweight titleholder. Gonzalez soon went to 112 himself. Last year he demolished then-RING champion Akira Yaegashi and has made two successful defenses since. Once seen solely on Spanish-language networks or online streams, Gonzalez's two-round drubbing of Edgar Sosa in May marked his long-awaited HBO debut and came on a highly viewed broadcast featuring Gennady Golovkin. He'll piggyback off Golovkin's popularity again this fall while seeking to build up his own star power in the United States.

The Future: Gonzalez will fight Brian Viloria on the Golovkin-David Lemieux pay-per-view undercard on Oct. 17. If he wins, an Estrada rematch or a showdown with 115-pound prodigy Naoya Inoue would be hotly desired by hardcore fans.

Unbeaten Roman Gonzalez became THE RING's No. 1 fighter pound for pound upon Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s retirement.



2. ANDRE WARD

The Rundown: Super middleweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 28-0 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: 2

The Reasons: Ward remains one of the most talented fighters in the world, which is why he's No. 2 here. And he may very well still be the best at 168 pounds. However, that's hard to know for sure given how rarely he gets in the ring against other super middleweights or anyone else. His last appearance, in June, was his first in more than a year and a half because of injuries and promotional issues. Now with Roc Nation Sports, Ward stopped Paul Smith in a 172-pound catchweight fight and has not yet announced whether he'll return to 168 or move up to 175. He's essentially beginning anew after winning the Super Six World Boxing Classic in 2011 with a win over Carl Froch. His technical knockout of drained 175-pound champ Chad Dawson was three years ago and was followed by an injury and then a decision over Edwin Rodriguez in late 2013.

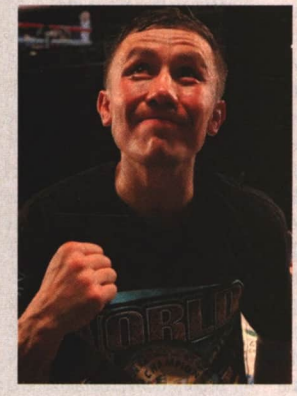
The Future: Ward was rumored to have a spot on the Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez undercard in November.

3. SERGEY KOVALEV

The Rundown: Light heavyweight (IBF, WBA and WBO titles) ★ Record: 28-0-1 (25 KOs) ★ Last year: 16

The Reasons: Kovalev still hasn't stepped in with RING champion Adonis Stevenson but he did the next best thing by stealing away two of Stevenson's desired opponents and beating them first. In 2014, the Russian shut out Bernard Hopkins and added two world titles to his collection to become THE RING's Fighter of the Year. He showed that he could be strategic and disciplined. His hands also remain heavy, as he demonstrated in early 2015 by becoming the first person to drop and then stop Jean Pascal. Kovalev's team then positioned him to face Stevenson once again, only to pull out for reasons related to business and politics. Kovalev went on to make short work of Nadjib Mohammedi and will continue to knock out lesser foes while awaiting bigger names.

The Future: Kovalev won't be back until early 2016.



4. GENNADY GOLOVKIN

The Rundown: Middleweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 33-0 (30 KOs) ★ Last year: 10

The Reasons: When David Lemieux signed to face Golovkin, it was the first time another titleholder had agreed to face a middleweight terror who has scored 20 straight knockouts. This reality is why Golovkin's ranking is based more on what we've seen than who we've seen it come against. His best wins were a three-round technical knockout of former titleholder Daniel Geale in 2014 and an 11th-round stoppage of respected contender Martin Murray in early 2015. Politics have precluded fights with Al Haymon middleweights Peter Quillin and Daniel Jacobs. Miguel Cotto opted for a big payday against Canelo Alvarez rather than a fight with GGG. Golovkin's team has mulled a move to super middleweight but couldn't keep Carl Froch from retiring. Their offer to Andre Ward included a head-shaking catchweight demand of 164 pounds that hadn't been asked of Froch.

The Future: Golovkin was scheduled to make his pay-per-view debut against Lemieux on Oct. 17.

5. GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

The Rundown: Junior featherweight (RING, WBA and WBO titles) ★ Record: 15-0 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: 7

The Reasons: Rigondeaux hasn't appeared on American airwaves since 2013, when he outboxed Nonito Donaire to become RING champion at 122 and then won the dreariest of decisions over Joseph Agbeko. He has the kind of skills that generally shouldn't be missed but his stubbornly minimalist approach means that the less fighters can hit him, the less fans wants to see him. In 2014, Rigondeaux did pick up a pair of wins that were far more entertaining than the victories that got him exiled but he's no closer to getting a spotlight commensurate with his talent. Of course, one of those wins was a first-round knockout of Sod Kokietgym that arguably came via a cheap shot. The other, an 11th-round stoppage of Hisashi Amagasa, became enjoyable when Amagasa scored two knockdowns and drew Rigondeaux into a battle.

The Future: Rigondeaux hasn't fought in 2015 and had nothing lined up yet amid a managerial dispute and after telling featherweight titleholder Vasyl Lomachenko that he'd only agree to fight at a 124-pound catchweight.

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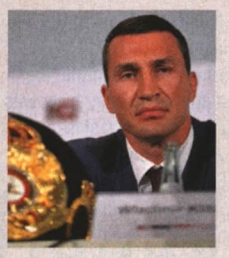

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

The Rundown: Heavyweight (RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles) ★ Record: 64-3 (53 KOs) ★ Last year: 8

The Reasons: Some thought Klitschko was finished as a top-tier heavyweight in 2004 because he lacked a chin and stamina. Perceptions are different 11 years later. The RING heavyweight champ hasn't even been in serious trouble in a fight since his first victory over Samuel Peter in 2005. He won a world title again in 2006 and has defended it successfully 18 times since, taking on many of the best available contenders, including Ruslan Chagaev, David Haye, Bryant Jennings, Kubrat Pulev and Tony Thompson. Often it's been downright ugly and/or boring thanks to Klitschko's love of using his height, jab and lots of holding to wear down his foes before setting them up for hard right hands and left hooks. But as we saw against Pulev, Klitschko is still fast, smart, powerful and, at 39, far and away the best in his division.

The Future: Klitschko's torn calf tendon pushed his fight with Tyson Fury to Nov. 28 in Germany.

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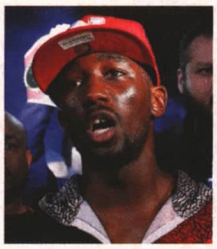

TERENCE CRAWFORD

The Rundown: Junior welterweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 26-0 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 21

The Reasons: Crawford's TKO of Thomas Dulorme this past April made him a two-division titleholder. And while it was at 135 that Crawford inserted his name into discussions of the best boxers, it is at 140 where he will have more opportunities to prove that against other top names. Last year's run won him the Fighter of the Year award from the Boxing Writers Association of America, whose members were impressed with how he went to Scotland to take Ricky Burns' belt, then returned home to win an enjoyable battle with Yuriorkis Gamboa and clearly outbox contender Ray Beltran. The lightweight division wasn't deep. But junior welterweight has options such as Viktor Postol, Ruslan Provodnikov or perhaps even Manny Pacquiao if he comes back down in weight.

The Future: But first Crawford was scheduled to fight Dierry Jean on Oct. 24 in Crawford's hometown of Omaha, Nebraska.

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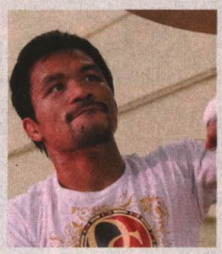

MANNY PACQUIAO

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 57-6-2 (38 KOs) ★ Last year: 3

The Reasons: The world finally knows that Pacquiao, for all of his accomplishments, still wasn't good enough to defeat Floyd Mayweather Jr. As humbling as that might be, it at least came against the best boxer of this generation and the result probably would have been the same even if Pacquiao hadn't come in with a hurt right shoulder. Pacquiao will now need to find new motivation after more than 20 years in the sport. His only other losses in the past decade came as a result of a perfect punch from Juan Manuel Marquez and via a highly controversial decision loss to Tim Bradley. Pacquiao still had the speed and skills to top Bradley in a rematch, wipe out Chris Algieri and out-box Brandon Rios. He has been lineal champion at 112, 126, 130 and 140, plus won titles at 122, 135, 147 and 154. Now it's time to see how he stacks up against some of the best young talent at 140 and 147.

The Future: Pacquiao was out for the year after surgery and will return no sooner than 2016.

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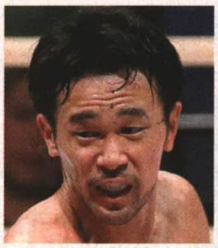

SHINSUKE YAMANAKA

The Rundown: Bantamweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 24-0-2 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 22

The Reasons: Yamanaka had ruled the 118-pound division after winning a title in late 2011 and making eight successful defenses, six by knockout. And then for his ninth he met Anselmo Moreno, the former longtime titleholder who'd lost his own belt a year ago after starting slowly and then paying for it on the cards in a six-round, cut-shortened bout. Yamanaka had become accustomed to making his opponents feel his power; even Suriyan Sor Rungvisai, who lasted the distance in 2014, visited the canvas multiple times. But Yamanaka had trouble with Moreno's boxing skills and was fortunate to escape with a split-decision victory. The bout was his first against one of the better bantamweights. Even if we believe Moreno is back to being among the best in the sport, Yamanaka should learn where he needs to improve. Power won't be the only thing that keeps him in power.

The Future: Yamanaka's attempt at successful defense No. 10 had not yet been set.

10.

KELL BROOK

The Rundown: Welterweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 35-0 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 34

The Reasons: The past 3½ years or so of Kell Brook's career have brought lows and highs. He's overcome them all, however, en route to winning a belt at 147 pounds, defending it and inserting himself into the conversation about which welterweights will take over the division with the retirement of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and the likelihood that Manny Pacquiao also will depart soon. Brook's struggles in a win over Carson Jones in mid-2012 were followed by an easier stoppage win a year later. He traveled to the U.S. to take Shawn Porter's title in 2014, an impressive victory, only to be attacked and injured by a man with a machete while on vacation. Brook recovered and returned in 2015 with a pair of demolitions against Jo Jo Dan and Frankie Gavin. The next significant obstacle for "The Special One" will be trying to make deals to fight the numerous opponents aligned with other major promoters.

The Future: Brook's Oct. 24 fight against Diego Chaves was postponed due to injury.

COTTO: ED MULHOLLAND/GETTY IMAGES

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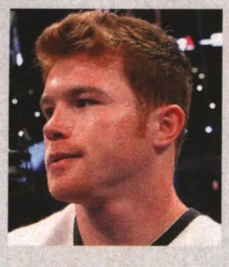


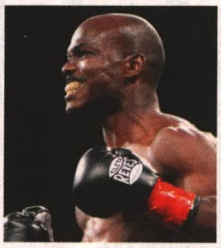
CANELO ALVAREZ

The Rundown: Junior middleweight ★ Record: 45-1-1 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 14

The Reasons: Alvarez is one of boxing's biggest stars despite his 2013 decision loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. His last fight, a third-round knockout of James Kirkland, came in front of more than 31,000 people and pulled in the biggest boxing ratings on HBO in nearly a decade. His popularity is one reason he will face RING and WBC middleweight champion Miguel Cotto in a pay-per-view fight later this year. Some remain unconvinced of Canelo's ability but, with the exception of the Mayweather fight, he continues to win against good opposition. He defeated Austin Trout by a unanimous decision to unify two titles in 2013, stopped a fading Alfredo Angulo after the Mayweather setback and then narrowly outpointed slick Erislandy Lara. Alvarez also was impressive in his dispatching of Kirkland in a thriller this past May, though the inactive Kirkland wasn't a Top 10 junior middleweight.

The Future: Cotto vs. Canelo was scheduled for Nov. 21 in Las Vegas. Cotto's titles will be on the line even though the fight will take place at a 155-pound catchweight.

12.



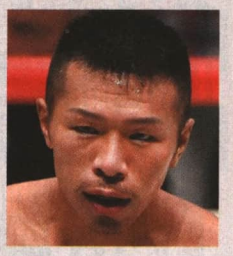
TIM BRADLEY

The Rundown: Welterweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 32-1-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 4

The Reasons: Bradley's reign at 140 included wins over Devon Alexander, Kendall Holt and Lamont Peterson. But since moving up to 147, he has mixed in big wins with disputed results. A split decision over Manny Pacquiao in 2012 was widely derided as a horrific robbery. A victory in the RING Fight of the Year with Ruslan Provodnikov had many wondering why Bradley got dragged into a war, one that some thought Provodnikov deserved to win. A fine performance against Juan Manuel Marquez still resulted in a split-decision win. Then came a loss in the Pacquiao rematch, followed by a fight with Diego Chaves that seemed like a clear Bradley victory but ended as a draw. Finally in June, Bradley held on to outpoint Jessie Vargas even though he was rocked badly in the final seconds and the ref mistakenly jumped in early because he thought he heard the bell.

The Future: Bradley won a vacant belt against Vargas. Sadam Ali is his mandatory challenger. First, though, is a fight with Brandon Rios scheduled for Nov 7.

13.



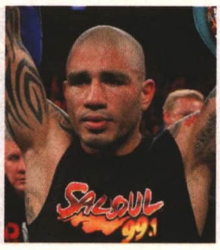
TAKASHI UCHIYAMA

The Rundown: Junior lightweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 23-0-1 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 25

The Reasons: Uchiyama is the third-longest reigning titleholder in the sport. He's approaching six years since winning his belt at the beginning of 2010 in what was just his 14th pro fight. Yet in that time he's only defended the title 10 times, winning nine — eight by knockout — and another fight ended in a technical draw after less than three rounds. A pair of those wins went on to look even better in retrospect: Takashi Miura, whom Uchiyama TKO'd in 2011, eventually established his own title reign and Bryan Vasquez, who lost to Uchiyama in late 2012, went on a nice run as a contender before losing to Javier Fortuna. Alas, Uchiyama fought just once in 2014 and once in 2015 before an injury sidelined him. He'll be 36 by the time he returns and will have less time left to distinguish himself against some of the others currently vying for the top spot at 130.

The Future: Uchiyama's return hadn't yet been announced.

14.



MIGUEL COTTO

The Rundown: Middleweight (RING and WBC titles) ★ Record: 40-4 (33 KOs) ★ Last year: 13

The Reasons: Cotto didn't think he had many fights left in his career when he started working with trainer Freddie Roach in 2013, particularly after losses the preceding year to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Austin Trout. But he has clearly been rejuvenated since pairing with Roach, making quick work of Delvin Rodriguez, dethroning Sergio Martinez in 2014 and then defending with a stoppage of former titleholder Daniel Geale in June 2015. But while Cotto is RING champion at middleweight, it's hard to say he's the best at 160. Martinez was hobbled by past injuries. Geale was drained by a catchweight. The division also includes power-punching destroyer Gennady Golovkin. Cotto in essence is a former 140-, 147-, and 154-pound titleholder who best belongs at junior middleweight. He looks good again. It'd be good to see how he fares against others at 154 or full-fledged 160-pounders.

The Future: Cotto and Alvarez are junior middleweights who will be fighting for two middleweight titles at a 155-pound catchweight on Nov. 21 in Las Vegas.

15.

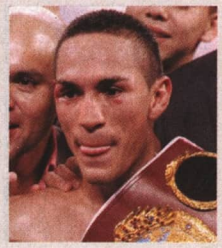
NAOYA INOUE

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 8-0 (7 KOs) ★ Last year: 65

The Reasons: It was already quite impressive when Inoue, then just 5-0 and days from turning 21, took on experienced junior flyweight titleholder Adrian Hernandez and scored a sixth-round technical knockout. But Inoue really turned heads by year's end. After one defense at 108, he jumped all the way up to 115 and summarily dispatched longtime titleholder Omar Narvaez with four knockdowns in two rounds. Narvaez's opposition had been criticized, especially during his junior bantamweight reign, but until then his only defeat had been by decision against Nonito Donaire at 118 back in 2011. Inoue is just 22 and could have a great future ahead of him. Unfortunately he broke a hand against Narvaez, needed surgery and was going on 10 months without a fight when this issue went to press.

The Future: Inoue's comeback hadn't been set. He owes a title shot to interim beltholder David Carmona.

16.



JUAN FRANCISCO **ESTRADA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight (WBA and WBO title) ★ Record: 33-2 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: 18

The Reasons:
Estrada already tried to take down the Roman empire once, when both he and "Chocolatito" Gonzalez were 108-pounders. Gonzalez bested the young Estrada by decision in 2012. Estrada, still just 25 years old, awaits another chance at flyweight. But he's not waiting for a shot at the 112-pound champion in order to make his mark. Estrada actually arrived in the division first, overtaking Brian Viloria to take a split decision and two world titles in 2013. That has been followed up with six successful defenses, the latest being a 10th-round stoppage of Hernan Marquez in September. The only other defeat on Estrada's record came in 2011 against Juan Carlos Sanchez. Estrada stopped him in their rematch later that year and Sanchez went on to win a title at 115.

The Future:
Estrada's next fight had not yet been set.

17.

NICHOLAS **WALTERS**

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★ Record: 26-0 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 20

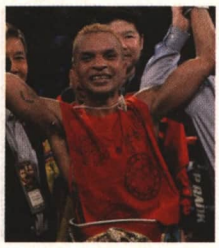
The Reasons:
If 2014 was a breakout year for Walters, then 2015 was when things began to break down. Fortunately for him his momentum hasn't been completely squandered, though it remains to be seen how the "Axe Man" will rekindle the promise he previously showed. Walters was a lesser-known rising contender when he signed with Top Rank in 2013. The company's contract offer proved wise. Walters went from blowing out Vic Darchinyan on a Macau card in May 2014 to stopping Nonito Donaire in six rounds later that year, sending Donaire scurrying back down to 122. Alas, Walters reportedly was ill early in 2015, pushing his return to June, and that layoff may have contributed to Walters coming in overweight against Miguel Marriaga. Walters won the decision but lost his title on the scales. His adviser said he'd remain at 126, though his promoter said Walters could be back by year's end at 130.

The Future:
Walters has a Dec. 12 date on HBO but no dance partner was announced.

The winner of the Miguel Cotto (left)-Canelo Alvarez fight on Nov. 21 figures to enhance his stock.

RUENROENG; DALE DE LA REY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MATTHYSSE; ALEX MENENDEZ/GETTY IMAGES

18.



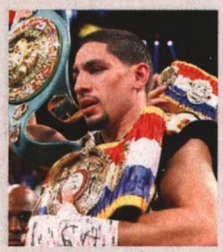
AMNAT RUENROENG

The Rundown:
Flyweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 16-0 (5 KOs) ★ Last year: 37

The Reasons:
What Ruenroeng has going for him can also work against him, and vice versa. He is a skilled yet awkward boxer, a combination that helped the former Muay Thai kickboxer, addict and convict win a world title less than two years into his pro career at the relatively advanced age of 34. He has defended it four times, including decisions over former two-division titleholder Kazuto Ioka, McWilliams Arroyo, Zou Shiming and former 108-pound titleholder Johnriel Casimero. Yet the top names at 112 won't rush to face him, particularly not in his native Thailand for less money. And those who saw the Casimero fight didn't appreciate the ugly, foul-filled tactics Ruenroeng employed. Ruenroeng showed he was willing to travel when he met Zou in Macau. Will he do the same if others ever offer him a chance?

The Future:
Ruenroeng's fifth defense hadn't been scheduled.

19.



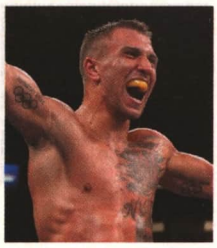
DANNY GARCIA

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 31-0 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 11

The Reasons:
Garcia was good enough to become the best at junior welterweight by edging out Lucas Matthysse in 2013. That fight was close on the cards but it was enough to cement the status of a fighter who'd previously blown out Amir Khan and Erik Morales and faded down the stretch in a victory over Zab Judah. Garcia has not won people over with his performances beginning in 2014, however. He struggled to win a debatable majority decision over Mauricio Herrera, nearly decapitated an overmatched Rod Salka rather than face Lamont Peterson and then was fortunate to get a majority decision over Peterson earlier this year and leave with his perfect record still intact. Garcia blamed his performances on the challenges of making weight, even in fights that were held over the 140-pound limit. And so he moved up to welterweight in August, stopping Paulie Malignaggi. It wasn't an overly impressive debut but Garcia will get more chances to show how he measures up among the others in a deep 147-pound division.

The Future:
Garcia's second welterweight fight hadn't been announced.

20.



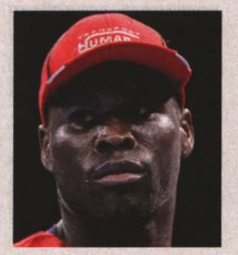
VASYL LOMACHENKO

The Rundown:
Featherweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 4-1 (2 KOs) ★ Last year: 52

The Reasons:
Lomachenko still has only five pro fights — 11 if you include his time with the World Series of Boxing — yet he has a world title and recognition as one of the best at 126. What he doesn't have, however, is another truly worthwhile foe to face so he can move to the top. After losing controversially to the overweight Orlando Salido in 2014, Lomachenko scored a majority decision over Gary Russell Jr. in a win that looks even better given what Russell has done since. Since then, though, there've been less recognizable names. Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo lost a shutout, Gamaliel Rodriguez got stopped and Romulo Koasicha is next. After that, his prospects are unclear, as many star featherweights are with Al Haymon. Nicholas Walters is, like Lomachenko, with Top Rank but might have grown out of the division and Guillermo Rigondeaux doesn't seem to want to move all the way up from 122.

The Future:
Lomachenko-Koasicha was scheduled for Nov. 7 in Las Vegas.

21.



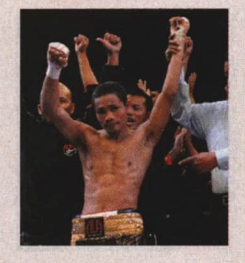
ADONIS STEVENSON

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight (RING and WBC titles) ★ Record: 27-1 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 15

The Reasons:
Stevenson and Sergey Kovalev both deserve some of the blame for why a fight between them, mandated by fans since 2014, hasn't happened yet. But Stevenson continues to lose goodwill thanks in large part to the weak opposition he's faced over the past year and a half. After dethroning Chad Dawson with one punch in 2013, Stevenson stopped Tavoris Cloud and Tony Bellew impressively to become the RING's Fighter of the Year. Then, in his Showtime debut, he had to rise off the canvas to outpoint Andrzej Fonfara. Since then he's faced Dmitry Sukhotsky, Sakio Bika and Tommy Karpency. People expect better from him, particularly when his adviser, Al Haymon, also has 175-pounders such as Eleider Alvarez and Artur Beterbiev.

The Future:
Stevenson's mandatory challenger will be the winner of the November fight between Alvarez and Isaac Chilemba, though it wouldn't be surprising were he to take on the winner of Fonfara vs. Nathan Cleverly first.

22.



DONNIE **NIETES**

The Rundown: Junior flyweight (RING and WBO titles) ★ Record: 36-1-4 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 46

The Reasons: Nietes has held world titles for almost the entirety of the past eight-plus years, with the only gap coming when he moved from 105 to 108. His strawweight reign began against Pornsawan Porpramook in 2007 and included four successful defenses through 2010. In late 2011 he topped Ramon Hirales to add a belt at junior flyweight and has gone 6-0-1 in his defenses. A draw against Moises Fuentes in 2013 was righted in 2014 with a decisive ninth-round knockout. Most recently, Nietes outpointed rising 105-pound titleholder Francisco Rodriguez. His excellent record includes excusable blemishes: a split-decision loss to the massively overweight Angky Angkotta way back in 2004 in Angkotta's hometown, two draws also early in his career and a third the result of a first-round clash of heads.

The Future: Nietes was scheduled to defend his belts Oct. 17 against Juan Alejo.

23.

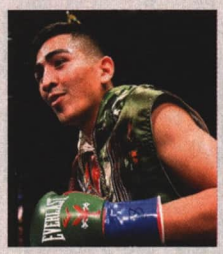
ERISLANDY **LARA**

The Rundown: Junior middleweight ★ Record: 21-2-2 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 19

The Reasons: Many of Lara's setbacks come because he's too set in his ways. We've seen how talented and skilled he is, whether it was in his performance against Paul Williams in 2011, the guts he showed against Alfredo Angulo in 2013 or the class he demonstrated in widely outpointing Austin Trout later that year. But while Lara was robbed by the judges against Williams, the reason he gets less of a spotlight than his other 154-pound stablemates is his stubborn refusal to change his style. His emphasis on hitting only as much as necessary while getting hit as little as possible may very well have cost him a split decision to Canelo Alvarez and even in his victories he can win rounds without winning over fans. He's good enough to make it look easy but the way he does it can be hard to watch.

The Future: Lara was scheduled to face Jan Zaveck on Nov. 25 in Florida.

24.



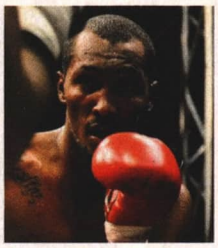
LEO **SANTA CRUZ**

The Rundown: Featherweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 31-0-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 28

The Reasons: Santa Cruz finally took the huge forward step fans had been hoping for when he took on Abner Mares this past August and mixed good boxing with more than 1,000 punches to earn a majority-decision victory. It gave him a vacant belt at featherweight, the third weight class in which he has won a world title. The first was bantamweight, at which he outpointed Vusi Malinga for a vacant title in mid-2012 and then made three successful defenses before the year was out. He then moved up to 122 and soon toppled Victor Terrazas in 2013 for another belt. His four defenses there were all wins but it felt as if Santa Cruz's momentum had stalled and he often seemed just to be staying busy. The Mares fight was a welcome change and hopefully pushes him toward clashes with some of the other better fighters at 126.

The Future: Santa Cruz's next fight had not yet been made.

25.



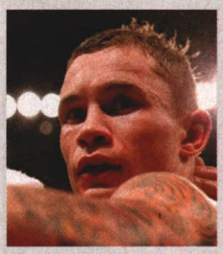
ANSELMO **MORENO**

The Rundown: Bantamweight ★ Record: 35-4-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 58

The Reasons: Moreno looked far better in September 2015 than he did in September 2014. Both fights ended in a loss, though one could easily argue that Moreno did enough to top bantamweight titleholder Shinsuke Yamanaka. That performance was Moreno's first since dropping his belt to Juan Carlos Payano, a fight that went just six rounds as a result of a cut and went to Payano thanks to Moreno's slow start. It's hard to know yet whether Moreno just had an off night against Payano or if he merely had one last great performance against Yamanaka. We should find out in his next outing. Still, Moreno troubled Yamanaka with the same skills that gave the Panamanian a six-year title reign at 118, dating back to 2008, which included a dozen successful defenses. His only other loss came when he jumped to 122 to challenge Abner Mares in 2012.

The Future: Moreno's next fight hadn't been set.

26.



CARL **FRAMPTON**

The Rundown: Junior featherweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 21-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 32

The Reasons: Frampton is an attraction in Northern Ireland, stardom born as he rose through the ranks at 122, stopped future titleholder Kiko Martinez in 2013 and then beat Martinez by decision in a rematch in 2014 to win a world title. But then came his struggle against Alejandro Gonzalez in his U.S. debut this past July, a bout in which Frampton had to come off the canvas twice in the first round to notch his second successful defense. He blamed the softness of the mat. Even if that were true, the question becomes whether the fight showed Frampton's flaws, his ability to battle through adversity or both. We should see soon. He's in a division with Julio Ceja, Nonito Donaire, Scott Quigg and Guillermo Rigondeaux. Negotiations were continuing yet again for a fight with Quigg, a fellow U.K. star. Frampton is now with Al Haymon and could potentially face Haymon's stars at 126 as well.

The Future: Frampton's next move was not yet official.

LARA: JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES; PORTER: STEVE MARCUS/GETTY IMAGES;

27.

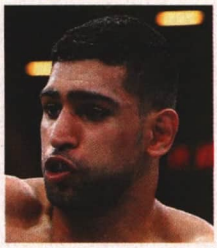
KEITH **THURMAN**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 26-0 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 55

The Reasons:
Thurman has recently begun to prove himself against a better quality of opponent. His win over Robert Guerrero in March was the first victory over a Top 10 foe (though admittedly a declining one) since he beat Jan Zaveck in 2013. Then in July he made Luis Collazo quit. There's still a lot to be shown but it's less than the days in which Thurman was viewed by some as just an entertaining fighter who could go to war with Diego Chaves and Jesus Soto-Karass but otherwise was not proving why he should be considered among the best 147-pounders. There's no more need for keep-busy bouts against shopworn guys like Julio Diaz or development outings against the likes of Leonard Bundu. It's time for "One Time" to take on the other contenders.

The Future:
Thurman is on a collision course with one such contender, Shawn Porter, though nothing was yet official.

28.



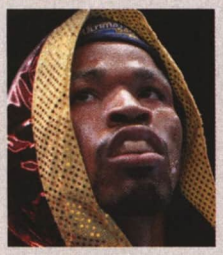
AMIR **KHAN**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 31-3 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 53

The Reasons:
Khan spent the better part of the past two years hoping for a fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. Now that Mayweather has retired, Khan can focus on distinguishing himself from the many, many others seeking to replace the richest man in boxing. Since moving to welterweight, the former 140-pound titleholder has dominated Luis Collazo and Devon Alexander, then struggled far more than expected in a decision over Chris Algieri this past May. Algieri showed that Khan can still be hit flush, the flaw that derailed him at 135 against Breidis Prescott and at 140 against Lamont Peterson (which ended a controversial split decision) and Danny Garcia (who stopped Khan in four). Still, Khan's hand speed has overwhelmed some like Paulie Malignaggi and Zab Judah, and his heart was obvious in a decision over Marcos Maidana back in 2010. He poses an interesting challenge, both to others and himself.

The Future: There are rumblings for Khan to face Manny Pacquiao in 2016 if politics can be overcome. His next fight hasn't been set yet, though.

29.



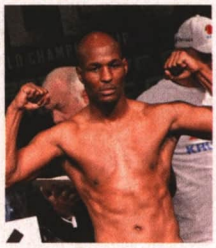
SHAWN **PORTER**

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 26-1-1 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 45

The Reasons:
Porter made the most of his second chance after a tough draw with Julio Diaz in 2012, coming back in 2013 with a victory over Phil Lo Greco, a rematch win against Diaz and then a decision over Devon Alexander to take a world title at 147 pounds. But after destroying Paulie Malignaggi in his first title defense, Porter dropped his belt in his second, losing a majority decision to Kell Brook in 2014. He's shown that he deserves a third chance. First came a stay-busy knockout of Erick Bone and that was followed by a clear victory on the scorecards over Adrien Broner. Porter's pressure can be difficult to handle. He's back in position to see which of the many welterweights in a deep division can handle it.

The Future:
There's talk of a fight with Keith Thurman, but Porter's next bout had not yet been scheduled.

30.



BERNARD **HOPKINS**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 55-7-2 (32 KOs) ★ Last year: 12

The Reasons:
Hopkins failed at his campaign to become the top light heavyweight in the world for the third time in a career that also included an extended run as middleweight titleholder and, later, undisputed 160-pound champion. But it was impressive enough that Hopkins was even in position to try at 49 years old, having unified a pair of belts at 175 with wins over Tavoris Cloud and Beibut Shumenov. Those victories made him one of the three best in the division. An agreement with RING champ Adonis Stevenson couldn't be reached, so Hopkins opted to face Sergey Kovalev instead. Kovalev's obvious power, underappreciated skill and a disciplined game plan combined to do something that had never been done before — shut out Hopkins on the scorecards. The fact that Hopkins was still as good as he was made Kovalev's win more impressive but it also signified that time was about up for an otherwise ageless wonder.

The Future:
Hopkins says he wants to move down to 168 to challenge titleholder Arthur Abraham but nothing had been agreed to yet.

31.

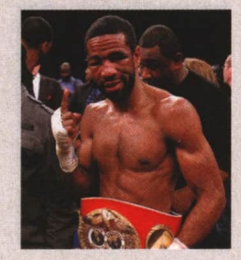
KAZUTO **IOKA**

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 18-1 (10 KOs) ★ Last year: 38

The Reasons:
Ioka is a two-division titleholder who was unsuccessful in his first attempt to hold a major belt in a third division. But that split-decision loss to Amnat Ruenroeng in May 2014 hasn't ended Ioka's campaign at 112. He's gone on to win four straight, including a close decision in April over Juan Carlos Reveco that earned Ioka the WBA's secondary title (the main one belongs to Juan Francisco Estrada), followed by a wide victory against Roberto Domingo Sosa this past September. He's just 26 years old and it's easy to forget that his world-title win at 105 pounds came in his seventh pro fight. His third defense brought a win in an enjoyable battle over Akira Yaegashi, after which Ioka went up to 108, won a belt in his 10th pro fight and made three more successful defenses.

The Future:
Ioka owes a rematch to Reveco, though there's no date just yet.

32.



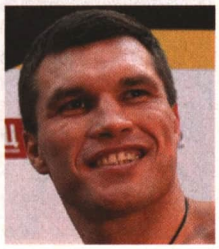
LAMONT **PETERSON**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 33-3-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 30

The Reasons:
Peterson is as persistent a presence in the 140-pound division as he can be in the ring. He remains near the top after multiple losses and other incidents that could have derailed him. A loss to Tim Bradley in 2009 and a draw with Victor Ortiz in 2010 didn't deter him. He fought his way into contention and won two titles with a controversial split decision over Amir Khan in 2011. Then came a lengthy layoff due to testosterone use Peterson claimed was for legit medical reasons. Somehow he kept the belt throughout, even after Lucas Matthysse flattened him in three rounds in a slightly over-the-limit non-title bout. Peterson picked up a pair of wins before facing Danny Garcia at a 143-pound catchweight in April. But while he made Garcia miss often early, he didn't make him pay until too late. The judges barely gave Garcia the decision. Peterson showed, though, that he still belongs even if he's now without a belt.

The Future:
Peterson has mentioned a welterweight move but first he was to face Felix Diaz on Oct. 17 in Virginia.

33.



GRIGORY **DROZD**

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 40-1 (28 KOs) ★ Last year: 54

The Reasons:
Drozd may no longer be in his prime at 36 years old but his career is peaking nevertheless. He's been around cruiserweight forever but had long been at the fringe. There was an elimination bout he lost via fifth-round technical knockout to Firat Arslan in 2006 and then there were several years spent facing opponents who never belonged in the ring with him. That soon began to change. He stopped previously undefeated Mateusz Masternak in October 2013 and last year he surprisingly outpointed longtime titleholder Krzysztof Wlodarczyk. Drozd made his first defense this past May, taking out Lukasz Janik in nine rounds.

The Future:
Alas, Drozd suffered an injury that postponed his second defense, which was to come against mandatory challenger Ilunga Makabu.

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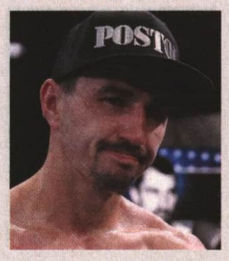


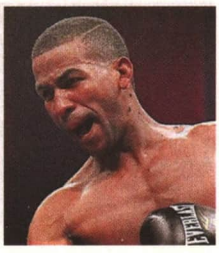
VIKTOR **POSTOL**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 28-0 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: 95

The Reasons:
Postol made the right choice in taking step-aside money when he was the mandatory challenger to the WBC title held by Danny Garcia. There was no guarantee Garcia ever would face him and indeed Garcia remained above 140 while taking on Lamont Peterson and has since moved up to 147. Postol got a nice check, stayed on the sideline for 11 months before taking a keep-busy bout and then capitalized in his title shot, scoring a shocking technical knockout over Lucas Matthysse. He has both height and boxing ability, plus surprising pop not otherwise indicated by his record. Postol will pose a tough challenge for all.

The Future:
Postol's first title defense hadn't been scheduled.

35.



RANCES **BARTHELEMY**

The Rundown:
Lightweight/junior welterweight ★ Record: 23-0 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: 81

The Reasons:
Barthelemy looked to have the goods when he put 130-pound titleholder Argenis Mendez away in two rounds at the beginning of 2014. The problem? The final knockdown came on blows landed after the bell. The fight was over but the victory was rightly overturned. Barthelemy didn't look as awesome in his next two performances, though those fights brought a title win over Mendez and then a shutout of Fernando Saucedo. Since then, he's left junior lightweight behind and added more pounds to his lanky frame, fighting at or a bit below junior welterweight while making quick work of Angino Perez in March and then outpointing former lightweight titleholder Antonio DeMarco this past June. It was a good move; there are more opportunities available at 140 anyway.

The Future:
Nevertheless, Barthelemy is dropping to 135 to vie for a vacant title against Denis Shafikov on Dec. 5.

36.

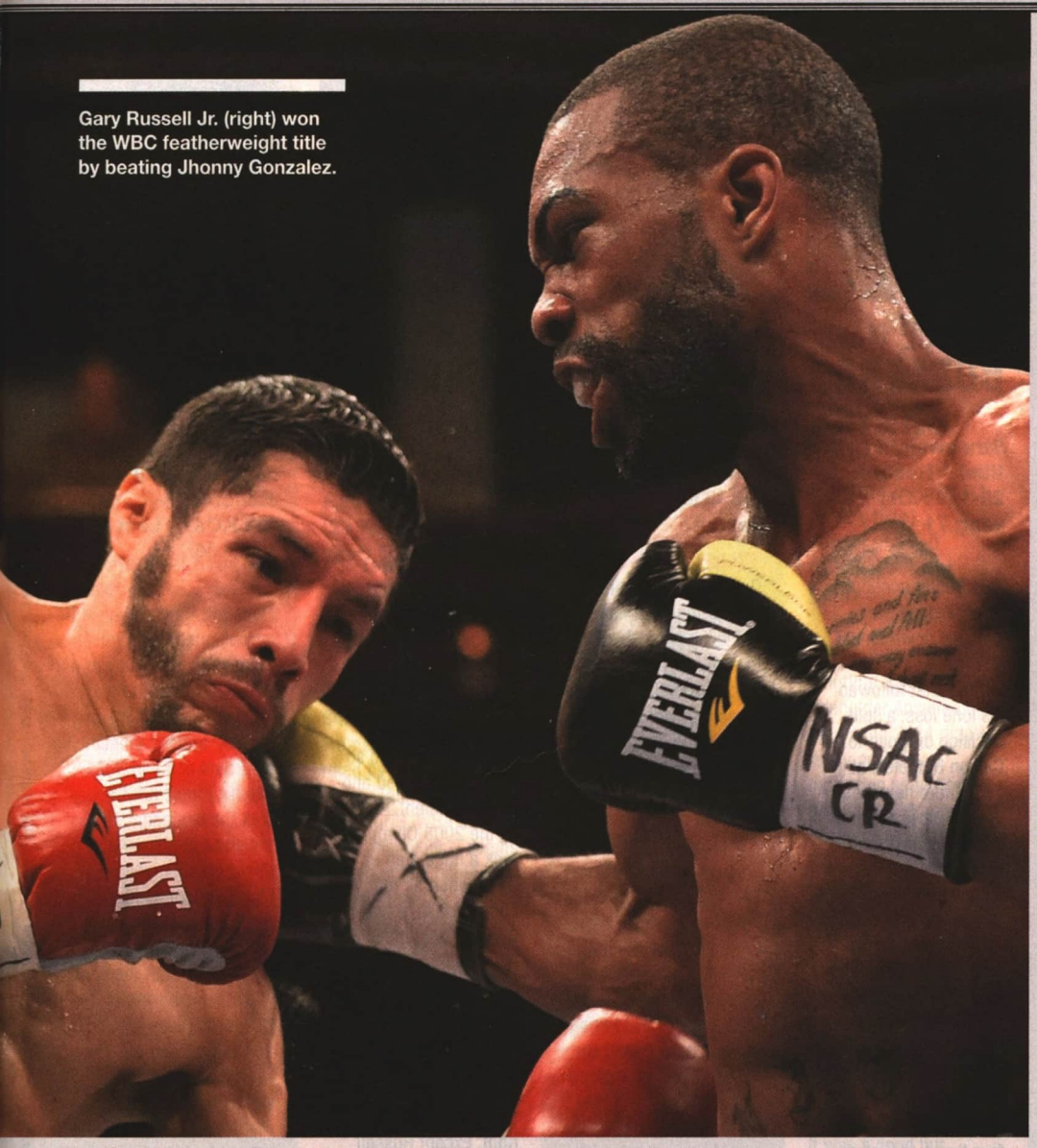
TAKASHI **MIURA**

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 29-2-2 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 62

The Reasons:
Miura isn't the only 130-pound titleholder named Takashi in Japan, nor can he say he's even the best one given that Takashi Uchiyama beat him back in 2011. But Miura can at least say he's standing out on his own and soon he'll get a chance to perform in front of a larger worldwide audience. Miura had the moral victory of knocking Uchiyama down early in their fight before being stopped on a cut. And he went on two years later to pick up a belt in his second chance, flooring Gamaliel Diaz several times and stopping him. There've been four successful defenses since, including a trip to Mexico to beat Sergio Thompson, plus technical knockouts of Dante Jardon, Edgar Puerta and Billy Dib back in Miura's home country. His only other defeat came in 2007, a decision loss to Yusuke Kobori.

The Future:
Miura is due to face undefeated contender Francisco Vargas on the Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez pay-per-view undercard Nov. 21 in Las Vegas.

DROZD: VASILY MAXIMOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; LEBEDEV: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; RUSSELL: NAOKI FUKUDA; DEGALE: MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES



Gary Russell Jr. (right) won the WBC featherweight title by beating Jhonny Gonzalez.

IN AND OUT

Fighters who entered the RING 100 this year and those ranked last year who departed

IN

(THIS YEAR'S RANKING)

41. Gary Russell Jr.
47. Jorge Linares
48. Jamie McDonnell
50. Krzysztof Glowacki
61. Deontay Wilder
62. Jermall Charlo
63. Javier Fortuna
64. Badou Jack
65. David Lemieux
66. Jermell Charlo
67. Jose Pedraza
68. Andy Lee
70. Lee Selby
71. Jesus Cuellar
73. Pedro Guevara
75. Andre Dirrell
76. Denis Shafikov
77. Cesar Cuenca
78. Katsunari Takayama
80. Errol Spence
81. Artur Beterbiev
82. Gilberto Ramirez
83. Julian Williams
85. Tyson Fury
89. McJoe Arroyo
91. Dejan Zlaticanin
93. Kosei Tanaka
94. Juergen Braehmer
95. Ilunga Makabu
96. Amir Imam
97. Julio Ceja
99. Wanheng Menayothin
100. Ryoichi Taguchi

OUT

(2014 RANKING)

1. Floyd Mayweather Jr.
5. Juan Manuel Marquez
9. Carl Froch
17. Mikey Garcia
27. Jhonny Gonzalez
39. Akira Yaegashi
40. Miguel Vazquez
41. Sergio Martinez
43. Chris Algieri
49. Devon Alexander
50. Robert Guerrero
61. Richar Abril
63. Evgeny Gradovich
66. Kubrat Pulev
67. Krzysztof Wlodarczyk
68. Daniel Geale
69. Bermane Stiverne
72. Ray Beltran
73. Omar Figueroa
74. Jean Pascal
75. Yuriorkis Gamboa
76. Mauricio Herrera
78. Hassan N'Dam
79. Felix Sturm
82. Simpiwe Vetyeka
83. Francisco Rodriguez Jr.
86. Johnriel Casimero
88. Moises Fuentes
92. Khabib Allakhverdiev
93. Mickey Bey
97. Ola Afolabi
98. Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.
99. Martin Murray

37.

JAMES DEGALE

The Rundown:
Super middleweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 21-1 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 89

The Reasons:
Barely a year after fellow British 168-pounders Carl Froch and George Groves had their rematch in front of 80,000 in Wembley Stadium, it is now just James DeGale who is left standing. That is especially satisfying for the 29-year-old from London, who lost a razor-thin majority decision to Groves in 2011 and who Froch declined to face prior to retiring. Groves lost both fights to Froch and has since gone on to lose another title fight while DeGale has now won 11 in a row and has a belt of his own after outpointing Andre Dirrell this past May. It was validation for DeGale, a 2008 Olympic gold medalist, who came out of the gate quickly in his pro career with a win over Paul Smith and the Groves fight. The lone loss didn't deter him; it merely slowed him down a bit en route to where he has just arrived.

The Future:
DeGale will face Lucian Bute on Nov. 28 in Quebec City.

38.

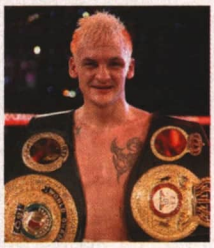
DENIS LEBEDEV

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 27-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 84

The Reasons:
The two losses on Lebedev's record don't detract from his standing in the 200-pound division. His first defeat came against Marco Huck, who would have a lengthy title reign, via split decision back in 2010. The second, a knockout loss in an absolutely brutal war with Guillermo Jones in 2013, needs an asterisk because Jones tested positive for a banned substance afterward. The result still hasn't officially been overturned but Lebedev has his title back. A rematch with Jones was called off at the last minute for, shockingly, the same reason. That meant Lebedev had 16 months away before returning last year to knock out unbeaten Pawel Kolodziej in two rounds, following that up with a decision win over Youri Kalenga this past April. His record also includes victories over other recognizable names, including Enzo Maccarinelli, Alexander Alekseev and the modern versions of Roy Jones Jr. and James Toney.

The Future:
Lebedev was due to defend against Lateef Kayode on Nov. 4 in Russia.

39.



HEKKIE BUDLER

The Rundown:
Strawweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 29-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 71

The Reasons:
This Budler continues to get it done. He dropped down to 105 pounds back in 2011, a move that followed his lone loss, a split decision dropped to Gideon Buthelezi at 108. There have been several close fights on the scorecards: four split decisions and one majority decision. The last split was a victory over Nkosinathi Joyi in June 2013. Since then he's won three straight knockouts followed by three straight unanimous decisions. A world title won in 2014 has been defended successfully four times, including victories over contender Jesus Silvestre, former titleholder Chao Zhong Xiong and, most recently, Simphiwe Khonco. This miniature boxer from South Africa has also found a second home fighting in Monaco and even was profiled in the New York Times in 2014.

The Future:
Budler's fifth title defense had not yet been scheduled.

40.

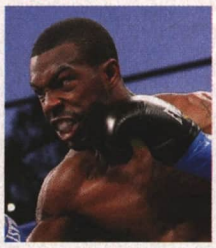
PETER QUILLIN

The Rundown:
Middleweight ★ Record: 32-0-1 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 47

The Reasons:
Quillin lost some of the support he once had but will have a chance to win fans back soon. "Kid Chocolate" came up as a prospect who threw candy to the fans (and still does) and then became a titleholder after bouncing Hassan N'Dam off the canvas six times. He defended the belt successfully three times but then gave it up rather than get a large and potentially easy payday against Matt Korobov. It seemed to be a move based on business and politics, even if Quillin said later that his child had just been born and a family member was dying. He returned from a yearlong layoff by coming in overweight against Andy Lee —who had just beaten Korobov — and couldn't even fight for his old belt. Their bout ended in a competitive draw. Quillin stayed busy for his upcoming bout by knocking out the overmatched Michael Zerafa in September.

The Future:
Quillin vs. Daniel Jacobs is set for Dec. 5 in Brooklyn.

41.



GARY RUSSELL JR.

The Rundown:
Featherweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 26-1 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
It was frustrating to watch as Russell was moved far too slowly for someone who demonstrated so much hand speed and potential talent. And so the 2008 Olympian took a huge step up in 2014 when he met Vasyl Lomachenko, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who admittedly would be a tough challenge for anyone. Lomachenko won a majority decision and a vacant belt, and Russell's critics felt they'd been proven right. Except Russell wasn't done. He came back with a wide victory over Christopher Martin and then got a second title shot against Jhonny Gonzalez. Even if Gonzalez was tailor-made for Russell, it was impressive to see Russell put Gonzalez violently on the mat three times in four rounds. It was his best performance yet and announced, finally, that he had arrived.

The Future:
Russell was due to face Oscar Escandon on Nov. 14.

42.

NONITO DONAIRE

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight ★ Record: 35-3 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 36

The Reasons:
Donaire's official arrival came when he stopped Vic Darchinyan with a single left in a 112-pound title fight in 2007 and his official re-arrival came in 2011 when a single left hook was the beginning of the end for 118-pound titleholder Fernando Montiel. He made his reputation as someone whose power came up in weight but then he was out-boxed by Guillermo Rigondeaux in 2013 and taken out in six rounds by Nicholas Walters in 2014. Now the former four-division titleholder has returned to 122, where his power might go farther and that of his opponents might be taken better. In 2015 he scored second-round technical knockouts of William Prado and Anthony Settoul. It's time for Donaire to take on a more difficult test.

The Future:
Donaire had aimed to face Scott Quigg but couldn't get him. He may fight on Dec. 12.

IOKA: AFP; DONAIRE: ALEXIS CUAREZMA/GETTY IMAGES; GLOWACKI: ELSA; RUSSELL JR.: STEPHEN DUNN/GETTY IMAGES; QUIGG: DAVE THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES; MCDONNELL: SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

43.

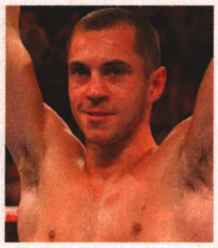
LUCAS **MATTHYSSE**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 37-4 (34 KOs) ★ Last year: 23

The Reasons:
Matthysse had bounced back from every one of his past setbacks. He's going to need to do that again if he's going to remain near the top of the 140-pound division. His knockout loss to Viktor Postol in October was the first time he'd gone out that way. Matthysse's prior defeats came via disputed split decisions to Zab Judah in 2010 and Devon Alexander in 2011, and then in a competitive but otherwise clear defeat against Garcia in 2013. Matthysse's other recent wins include a trouncing of Lamont Peterson, an absolute war against John Molina and a majority decision in a battle with the never-easy Ruslan Provodnikov. It's possible that time and taking punishment are beginning to show.

The Future:
Matthysse's comeback hadn't been announced.

44.



SCOTT **QUIGG**

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight ★ Record: 31-0-2 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 56

The Reasons:
Quigg is working to avoid being seen as second fiddle, whether it's in relation to fellow British 122-pounder Carl Frampton or in a division ruled by Guillermo Rigondeaux. Rigondeaux – the RING, WBA and WBO titleholder – seems almost untouchable at the moment but Quigg has at least been rising up through the ranks. He has put together a string of five straight victories since a 2013 draw with another Cuban fighter, Yoandris Salinas. Only one went the distance, a late 2014 decision over Hidenori Otake. The rest have ended in two or three rounds, including July's four-minute drubbing of Kiko Martinez, whom Frampton has beaten once by ninth-round stoppage and again by decision. Quigg sent a message with the win.

The Future:
Quigg didn't come to terms with Nonito Donaire for a fight and is back in negotiations with Frampton. His next bout otherwise hadn't been set.

45.

ALEXANDER **POVETKIN**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 29-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 70

The Reasons:
Povetkin didn't slink away and hide under a rock after his one-sided and aesthetically displeasing decision loss to Wladimir Klitschko back in 2013. That's a good thing. Everyone has lost to Klitschko for more than a decade now. And Povetkin has shown he still belongs in the picture with three straight knockouts against former contenders and is due to face a fourth. Povetkin dispatched Manuel Charr in seven rounds and Carlos Takam in 10 back in 2014, then needed just half a round to put away Mike Perez this past May. Before Klitschko, he'd also defeated Ruslan Chagaev by decision and was fortunate to take a close win over cruiserweight Marco Huck. All that is in the past, though. So is the Klitschko fight. He has since righted himself and earned a mandatory shot at Deontay Wilder's title. And almost as importantly, Povetkin reminded us he can be fun to watch.

The Future:
Povetkin was scheduled to face Mariusz Wach, a former Klitschko foe, on Nov. 4 in Russia.

46.

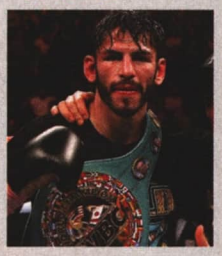
JUAN **CARLOS PAYANO**

The Rundown:
Bantamweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 17-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: 57

The Reasons:
Payano's title win over longtime bantamweight titleholder Anselmo Moreno in 2014 didn't really provide an indication as to how good he is. Moreno seemed sluggish, Payano's volume got him rounds and a headbutt ended things prematurely after the sixth. Payano remained out of the ring for 10 months before returning this past August, giving a solid performance in a split-decision victory over Rau'shee Warren. It was a good but sometimes ugly fight. Payano should give a rematch to Moreno, who looked very good in a September loss to 118-pound titleholder Shinsuke Yamanaka. Warren deserves another shot at some point. There are a number of other options in the division. Each subsequent bout will show just how long Payano may remain as part of the discussion.

The Future:
Payano's second defense hadn't been announced.

47.



JORGE **LINARES**

The Rundown:
Lightweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 40-3 (27 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Every time Linares was on the verge of fulfilling the hype that hardcore fans gave him, he was brought back down to earth, or rather the canvas. That might finally be behind him. Linares has won nine straight, his last loss coming 3½ years ago. He picked up a vacant world title in late 2014 by stopping Javier Prieto. But it's almost never easy. He had to come off the canvas and come from behind on the cards to stop Kevin Mitchell in May. This belt is his second. He had beaten Oscar Larios in 2007 at featherweight and defended once before moving up to 130. Then came a first-round knockout loss against Juan Carlos Salgado in 2009. Linares rebuilt again, only to lose shockingly to Antonio DeMarco in 11 rounds in 2011 and to Sergio Thompson in two rounds in 2012. We'll see how long this lasts.

The Future:
Linares' next fight hadn't been set.

48.

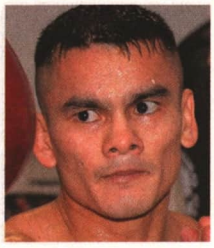
JAMIE MCDONNELL

The Rundown:
Bantamweight ★ Record: 27-2-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
McDonnell is another one of those fighters who lost early in his career and then went on to be much better than those blemishes would otherwise indicate. In his case, the defeats came back-to-back in 2007 and 2008, a split decision against Chris Edwards (who was better than his record would indicate) and a points loss to Lee Haskins, who has gone on to become a contender at 118 himself. McDonnell has won 19 in a row since, outpointing future bantamweight titleholder Stuart Hall in 2011 and Julio Ceja in 2013. The Ceja victory got him a world title but he was stripped before his first defense could be made. In 2015, McDonnell won two competitive fights with Tomoki Kameda. The scorecards in the rematch were wider, though Kameda felt he deserved the win both times. Nevertheless, McDonnell's moving on toward something else.

The Future:
That something else could soon be a move to junior featherweight and perhaps Scott Quigg or a rematch with Ceja, an interim 122-pound titleholder at presstime.

49.



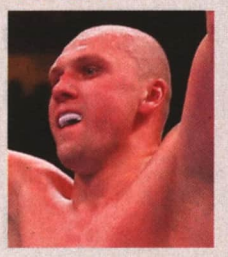
MARCOS MAIDANA

The Rundown:
Welterweight ★ Record: 35-5 (31 KOs) ★ Last year: 26

The Reasons:
On the one hand, Maidana deserves credit for the wins he got in 2013 and the way he performed in defeat in 2014. On the other hand, Maidana hasn't won a fight since his 2013 victories over Josesito Lopez and Adrien Broner. He hasn't fought at all so far in 2015 and isn't expected to return to the ring until 2016. It was fun to watch him humble Broner and make Mayweather work harder at times than Pacquiao did. Maidana just hasn't done anything since. That's a shame because his work with trainer Robert Garcia enhanced his ability to pressure boxers; he's far better than the fighter who was controlled by Devon Alexander in 2012, lost a close fight to Amir Khan in 2010 and battled it out in wins over Erik Morales in 2011 and Victor Ortiz in 2009.

The Future:
Maidana is mulling a move to junior middleweight. No return date was set.

50.



KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 25-0 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Glowacki was undefeated going into his August fight with Marco Huck but had never been in with anyone on Huck's level before. Despite that, Glowacki wasn't intimidated by the longtime cruiserweight titleholder and boxed well at the outset, making Huck miss many of his punches. Huck eventually adjusted, though, and Glowacki got caught in the sixth. The Pole crumpled in the center of the ring and got up hurt. But this is when Glowacki showed he wasn't just another loser on Huck's record. He survived, fought on and was behind on the cards in the 11th when he dropped Huck with two shots. Huck rose on spindly legs and Glowacki closed the show, dethroning one of the princes of the 200-pound division. You may not know how to spell or pronounce "Krzysztof Glowacki" but with that performance you at least now know his name.

The Future:
Glowacki was recovering from an injury. A return date hadn't been announced.

51.

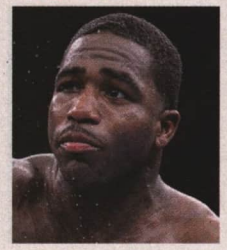
ORLANDO SALIDO

The Rundown:
Junior lightweight ★ Record: 42-13-3 (29 KOs) ★ Last year: 51

The Reasons:
It's hard to believe Salido is still around after nearly 20 years given the aggressive manner in which he fights and the punches he takes. Yet Salido, who turned 35 in November, is still here. He did better in his rematch draw with 130-pound titleholder Roman Martinez in September — a fight Salido appeared to win — than he did five months earlier. Then again, this is the same guy who bounced back after going 8-6-1 in his first 15 fights. Everyone who faces him can expect a stiff test and a reality check. He bested Juan Manuel Lopez twice in 2011 and 2012, used low blows and excessive weight to edge Vasyl Lomachenko in 2014 and had an amazing fight with Terdsak Kokietgym later that year. He visits the canvas more often now but no one these days has put him down for good or pushed him out of the sport.

The Future:
Salido's next fight hadn't been set.

52.



ADRIEN BRONER

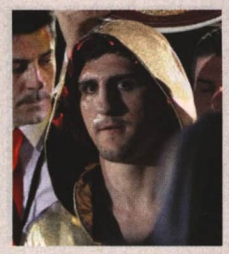
The Rundown:
Junior welterweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 31-2 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 29

The Reasons:
Broner has the physical tools to be a very good fighter. The problem with "The Problem" is that his mentality doesn't give him the best chance once he gets in the ring. He can look stellar against a certain level of opponents, as we saw when he won world titles at 130 and 135. His jump to 147 was the beginning of his humbling. He won a third world-title by narrowly outointing Paulie Malignaggi but then challenged Marcos Maidana and was overwhelmed, getting knocked down twice and losing a clear decision. He wisely moved down to 140 but didn't care to rebuild his star power in three decision wins; he was getting paid well anyway. He then agreed to face Shawn Porter in June, albeit at a 144-pound catchweight, yet did far too little until too late and suffered his second pro defeat. He started anew with an October vacant title win at 140 over Khabib Allakhverdiev.

The Future:
Broner's first defense hadn't been set.

GLOWACKI: ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

53.



MARCO HUCK

The Rundown: Cruiserweight ★ Record: 38-3-1 (26 KOs) ★ Last year: 24

The Reasons: Huck had put Krzysztof Glowacki down earlier in their August fight and was, unbeknownst to him, ahead on the scorecards by a close margin with just two rounds to go. The victory would've given him a record for most successful title defenses in the cruiserweight division. And then he made a foolish mistake of pulling straight back with his hands down and chin up. Glowacki capitalized and landed two blows, putting Huck down for the first time in his career. He got up but soon it was over. It was a devastating defeat. Huck's reign dated back to 2009. He'd been 12-0-1 in his defenses, including a victory over Denis Lebedev and a 2-0-1 record in a trilogy with Ola Afolabi. Huck can bounce back but gone for now are hopes of going back up to heavyweight, where he lost controversially to Alexander Povetkin in 2012. His only other loss was against Steve Cunningham in 2007.

The Future: The start of Huck's rebuilding hadn't been scheduled.

Krzysztof Glowacki (left) KO'd Marco Huck in August.

RING *100* BY DIVISION

THE NUMBER OF RANKED FIGHTER IN EACH OF THE 17 WEIGHT CLASSES

Heavyweight
6. Wladimir Klitschko
45. Alexander Povetkin
61. Deontay Wilder
85. Tyson Fury

Cruiserweight
33. Grigory Drozd
38. Denis Lebedev
50. Krzysztof Glowacki
53. Marco Huck
54. Yoan Pablo Hernandez
95. Ilunga Makabu

Light heavyweight
3. Sergey Kovalev
21. Adonis Stevenson
30. Bernard Hopkins
81. Artur Beterbiev
94. Juergen Braehmer

Super middleweight
2. Andre Ward
37. James DeGale
59. Arthur Abraham
64. Badou Jack
75. Andre Dirrell
82. Gilberto Ramirez
87. George Groves
88. Anthony Dirrell

Middleweight
4. Gennady Golovkin
14. Miguel Cotto
40. Peter Quillin
65. David Lemieux
68. Andy Lee

Junior middleweight
11. Canelo Alvarez
23. Erislandy Lara
57. Demetrius Andrade
62. Jermall Charlo
66. Jermell Charlo
83. Julian Williams
84. Austin Trout
92. Vanes Martirosyan

Welterweight
8. Manny Pacquiao
10. Kell Brook
12. Timothy Bradley
19. Danny Garcia
27. Keith Thurman
28. Amir Khan
29. Shawn Porter
49. Marcos Maidana
80. Errol Spence
86. Jessie Vargas

Junior welterweight
7. Terence Crawford
32. Lamont Peterson
34. Viktor Postol
35. Rances Barthelemy
43. Lucas Matthysse
52. Adrien Broner
58. Ruslan Provodnikov
77. Cesar Cuenca
86. Jessie Vargas
96. Amir Imam

Lightweight
35. Rances Barthelemy
47. Jorge Linares
76. Denis Shafikov
91. Dejan Zlaticanin

Junior lightweight
13. Takashi Uchiyama
17. Nicholas Walters
36. Takashi Miura
51. Orlando Salido
63. Javier Fortuna
67. Jose Pedraza

Featherweight
17. Nicholas Walters
20. Vasyl Lomachenko
24. Leo Santa Cruz
41. Gary Russell Jr.
55. Abner Mares
70. Lee Selby
71. Jesus Cuellar

Junior featherweight
5. Guillermo Rigondeaux
26. Carl Frampton
42. Nonito Donaire
44. Scott Quigg
97. Julio Ceja

Bantamweight
9. Shinsuke Yamanaka
25. Anselmo Moreno
46. Juan Carlos Payano
48. Jamie McDonnell
72. Tomoki Kameda

Junior bantamweight
15. Naoya Inoue
60. Carlos Cuadras
69. Omar Narvaez
74. Zolani Tete
79. Koki Kameda
89. McJoe Arroyo
98. Srisaket Sor Rungvisai

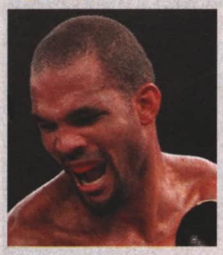
Flyweight
1. Roman Gonzalez
16. Juan Francisco Estrada
18. Amnat Ruenroeng
31. Kazuto Ioka
56. Brian Viloria
90. Moruti Mthalane

Junior flyweight
22. Donnie Nietes
73. Pedro Guevara
100. Ryoichi Taguchi

Strawweight
39. Hekkie Budler
78. Katsunari Takayama
93. Kosei Tanaka
99. Wanheng Menayothin

Note: 103 fighters are listed here because three who straddle two divisions (Jesse Vargas, Rances Barthelemy and Nicholas Walters) are included in both.

54.



YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ

The Rundown:
Cruiserweight (RING title) ★ Record: 29-1 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 33.

The Reasons:
The latest round of surgeries for a fighter who had already been quite inactive in recent years led to an announcement that Hernandez would be retiring. And then his promoter disputed that. Hernandez recently turned 31 so he could have plenty of time left. But the track record hasn't been promising. That's a shame. He captured a world title from Steve Cunningham with a technical decision in 2011 and then outpointed him in a rematch in 2012. Next came a decision over Troy Ross later that year, followed by 14 months away because of a hand injury. He returned to knock out Alexander Alekseev in late 2013 and then only fought once in 2014 with a close split decision over the 43-year-old Firat Arslan. When 2015 ends, Hernandez will have gone more than 16 months without fighting. He will in essence be starting from scratch once he comes back.

The Future:
Nothing is set.

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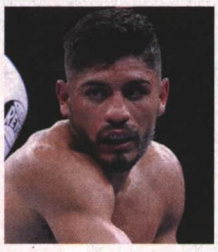


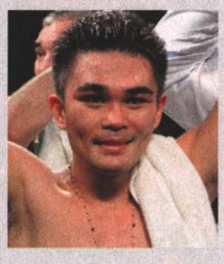
ABNER MARES

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★ Record: 29-2-1 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: 35

The Reasons:
Mares finally stepped back up his level of competition two years after he shockingly lost his world title to Jhonny Gonzalez in less than a round. Alas, he ran into a highly talented opponent in Leo Santa Cruz. Mares started out well but didn't sustain that success, as Santa Cruz adjusted well, boxed well, threw more than 1,000 punches and beat Mares by a majority decision. That means Mares must again work his way back into contention, though this doesn't hurt as much as the Gonzalez fight did. Hopefully he won't take too long to get in with a tough foe again. He didn't shy away from good opponents at 118, where he beat Joseph Agbeko and Vic Darchinyan and drew with Yohnny Perez. At 122 he bested natural bantamweight Anselmo Moreno. Mares added a world title in a third division when he stopped Daniel Ponce De Leon a few months before the Gonzalez fight.

The Future:
Mares wants a Santa Cruz rematch but might have to wait.

56.



BRIAN VILORIA

The Rundown:
Flyweight ★ Record: 36-4 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 42

The Reasons:
Viloria has been around the top of the sport for a decade now and he has had several lives along the way. He won a world title at junior flyweight in 2005 but lost it less than a year later. He got another belt in 2009 but again it lasted barely nine months. At flyweight he won a title in 2011 and this time successfully defended three times, topping Giovani Segura and old rival Omar Nino before unifying with a nice stoppage of Hernan Marquez. Then came a fight with upstart Juan Francisco Estrada, who just seemed to get stronger on his way to taking a split decision. Viloria has spent the past 2½ years regaining confidence against four lesser foes, making quick work of three of them. He's nearly 35 and was scheduled to get his last chance against the toughest opponent of his career.

The Future:
Viloria was due to fight RING pound-for-pound king and 112-pound champion Roman Gonzalez on the Gennady Golovkin-David Lemieux card on Oct. 17.

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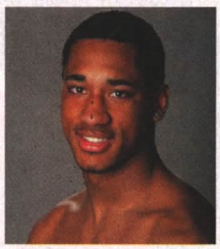


DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 21-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: 48

The Reasons:
It was regrettable enough that a fighter as talented as this 2008 Olympian took things as slowly as he did in his first five years as a pro. But Andrade at least got himself to a world title shot, winning a vacant belt against Vanes Martirosyan in 2013 and then being featured on HBO again in June 2014 with an easy victory over Brian Rose. He hasn't done himself any favors since and spent more than a year out of the ring. He turned down a late-2014 defense against Jermell Charlo on Showtime due to what he said was too little money being offered. He allegedly chatted with Roc Nation Sports even though he already was under a promotional contract. And he was stripped of his title by the WBO. Now he'll need to convince networks to feature him and promoters to risk their fighters against him.

The Future:
Andrade's first fight in 16 months was set for Oct. 17 against Dario Pucheta.

58.

RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

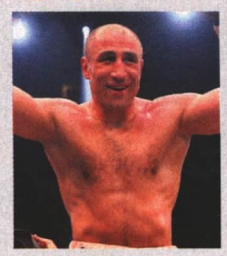
The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 24-4 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 44

The Reasons:
Provodnikov has lost three of his last five but those defeats shouldn't be held against him too much. That's because his opponents quickly find out that there's no such thing as an easy night against the rugged Russian. He put Tim Bradley through hell for 12 rounds in 2013 and lost a unanimous decision but some felt Provodnikov deserved the nod. He put Chris Algieri on the mat twice in the first round in 2014 and made him box through a swollen eye for the remainder of the night. Algieri won a split decision but again the scorecards were debatable. Provodnikov gave Lucas Matthysse a tough outing this past April to reiterate that he belongs in with the best at and around 140. More can be taken from these defeats than, say, his title win over Mike Alvarado in 2013 and his stay-busy technical knockout of Jose Luis Castillo in 2014.

The Future:
Provodnikov was expected to return, perhaps in November, in his Showtime debut.

FORTUNA: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES; CHARLO: BILLIE WEISS/GETTY IMAGES

59.



ARTHUR **ABRAHAM**

The Rundown: Super middleweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 43-4 (29 KOs) ★ Last year: 96

The Reasons: It might come as a surprise that Abraham's name can be found toward the top of the rankings at 168. He seemed close to done in 2013, when he was stopped in four rounds in a rematch with Robert Stieglitz. He didn't look so good in fights afterward either. Yet he regained a world title against Stieglitz in 2014 and has won in four defenses since, outpointing Nikola Sjekloca, taking the nod in a fight with Paul Smith that was closer than the scorecards indicated, winning a Smith rematch more handily and then scoring a technical knockout over Stieglitz this past July in their fourth and presumably final installment. Andre Ward, who beat Abraham in 2011, hasn't fought at 168 in years. Carl Froch, who beat Abraham in 2010, has retired. That leaves Abraham as one of the older faces in an interesting and internationally diverse division.

The Future: Abraham faces Martin Murray on Nov. 21 and has been in talks to face Bernard Hopkins in 2016.

60.

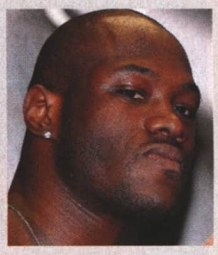
CARLOS **CUADRAS**

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 33-0-1 (26 KOs) ★ Last year: 85

The Reasons: While hardcore fans daydream about flyweight champion Roman Gonzalez having a rematch with 112-pound titleholder Juan Francisco Estrada or stepping in with 115-pound prodigy Naoya Inoue, there's another fighter at junior bantamweight who could make for a fun fight. Cuadras, after all, is the kind of fighter who comes forward and is willing to take in order to give. His aggressiveness is one reason two of his recent fights ended on headbutts: an eight-round technical decision over Srisaket Sor Rungvisai in 2014 that won Cuadras a world title and a technical draw with Jose Salgado in his first defense. Since then Cuadras has taken out Marvin Mabait, outpointed longtime flyweight contender Luis Concepcion and scored a technical knockout over Dixon Flores. Cuadras and Gonzalez went face to face at an event this summer. They should go head to head in the ring.

The Future: Cuadras was due to face Koki Eto on Nov. 28.

61.



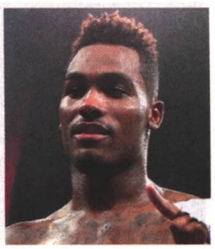
DEONTAY **WILDER**

The Rundown: Heavyweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 35-0 (34 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Wilder is still undefeated. It's just taking him longer than it once did to get those wins. The power-puncher who blasted through 32 straight opponents within the first four rounds ended up going the full 12-round distance when he outpointed Bermane Stiverne to begin 2015 as a heavyweight titleholder. His defenses since haven't come against top-flight foes. Eric Molina, who once fell to Chris Arreola in a single round, was able to wobble Wilder. Wilder eventually stopped Molina in nine. Johann Duhaupas, who'd dropped decisions to Francesco Pianeta and Erkan Teper, brought swelling from Wilder's left eye. Wilder knocked him out in the 11th. There's plenty of speed and power in Wilder's game, tools that can be used as he continues to improve. He'll need to as he faces better big men.

The Future: One such better big man is the one Wilder owes a mandatory defense against: Alexander Povetkin. There's no word yet on when that'll come.

62.



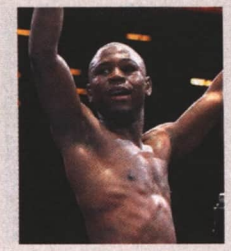
JERMALL **CHARLO**

The Rundown: Junior middleweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 22-0 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Jermall is the first of the twin Charlo brothers to win a world title; Jermell hasn't risen to the same heights just yet. There hadn't been much of note on his record beforehand, just wins over measuring-stick foes such as Orlando Lora, Luis Hernandez, Hector Munoz, Norberto Gonzalez and Antwone Smith, plus the outgunned Lenny Bottai. Charlo ended them all within the distance and he did the same in September against aged titleholder Cornelius Bundrage. Charlo scored four knockdowns in three rounds, left as the proud owner of a new title belt and now can go on to seeing how he stacks up against an interesting mix of 154-pound fighters.

The Future: Charlo's first defense hadn't been scheduled.

63.



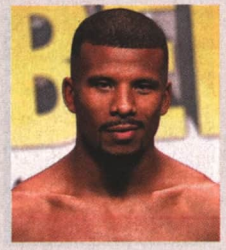
JAVIER **FORTUNA**

The Rundown: Junior lightweight ★ Record: 29-0-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Fortuna hit the highlight reels in 2012 with his first-round knockout of Yuandale Evans and followed that up with a second-round stoppage of former featherweight titleholder Cristobal Cruz. It's otherwise been a slow ascent for Fortuna as he faced lower-tier opponents at featherweight and junior lightweight. He signed with Al Haymon in 2014, though, and has since been put into a bigger spotlight than ESPN2's "Friday Night Fights." His knockout of Abner Cotto opened a Showtime broadcast in late 2014 and he stayed busy one month later with an easy one-round stoppage of Miguel Taveras. He then topped Bryan Vasquez by decision on the Spike TV undercard of Amir Khan vs. Chris Algieri this past May. That landed him a Premier Boxing Champions main event in late September, when he stopped Carlos Velasquez.

The Future: Fortuna's next fight is yet to be determined.

64.



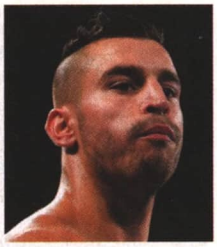
BADOU JACK

The Rundown: Super middleweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 20-1-1 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Jack has been a pleasant surprise in 2015, especially after he was stopped in one minute by the tough but otherwise limited Derek Edwards in 2014. It wasn't enough to pick himself up off the canvas and head to his dressing room. Jack had to pick up the pieces and put himself back together if he wanted to compete with the best at 168. He has been in the process of doing that. First came confidence builders as he outpointed Jason Escalera and stopped Francisco Sierra. Then in April he took a majority decision and a world title from Anthony Dirrell. Jack's best performance yet may have been in his first defense, a split-decision victory in a competitive battle with George Groves. The man born in Stockholm has arrived and how Swede it is.

The Future: Jack's second defense hadn't been scheduled. He's also eyeing an eventual move up to 175.

65.



DAVID LEMIEUX

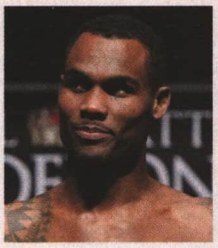
The Rundown: Middleweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 34-2 (31 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: So many prospects have come up on Montreal undercards and become stars in their own right. Lemieux was on that path until he got spectacularly derailed, getting stopped in seven by Marco Antonio Rubio and then outpointed by the faded Joachim Alcine in 2011. Lemieux's worked his way back up and regained a following. He won nine straight, seven by knockout. Fernando Guerrero went down in three. Gabriel Rosado was stopped in 10. And then came a shot at a vacant belt against Hassan N'Dam, whom Lemieux floored four times en route to a unanimous-decision win. He may still be flawed but he's fun. That's why he seemed a good choice for a unification bout with Gennady Golovkin on pay-per-view.

The Future: Golovkin-Lemieux was scheduled for Oct. 17 in New York City.

Andy Lee (left) proved his mettle in a hard-fought draw with Peter Quillin in April.

66.



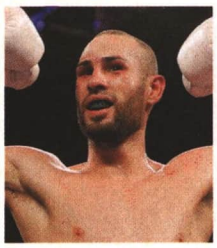
JERMELL **CHARLO**

The Rundown: Junior middleweight ★ Record: 26-0 (11 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Charlo would've had a world title shot in 2014 had titleholder Demetrius Andrade not taken umbrage, perhaps incorrectly, with the money offered to him. Instead, Charlo's been waiting for his next chance, all while watching twin brother Jermall get a belt first. Jermell has wins over some familiar names, though the way he wins suggests that his brother is the one with more power. While Jermell has knocked out Denis Douglin and Harry Joe Yorgey, he went the distance in defeating Demetrius Hopkins, Gabriel Rosado, Charlie Ota, Mario Lozano and Vanes Martirosyan. It is Martirosyan that is the biggest win of them all, followed by Rosado. Charlo now seeks the opportunity for something even bigger than that.

The Future: That opportunity won't be in his next fight, however. Charlo was scheduled to stay busy Oct. 31 against the faded Joachim Alcine.

67.



JOSE **PEDRAZA**

The Rundown: Junior lightweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 21-0 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Pedraza isn't as popular as fellow rising Puerto Rican fighter Felix Verdejo but he evidently has the all-around ability to become one of the island's next big things. It's still early but the signs are promising. Pedraza put himself in line for a title fight in late 2014 by outpointing Michael Farenas, an opponent whose previous defeat had come two years before to talented Yuriorkis Gamboa. Then Pedraza nearly shut out Andrey Klimov this past June to win a vacant belt. Klimov's only other loss had been to Terence Crawford. Pedraza's nickname is "The Sniper." Fans should give him a shot, though he'll need to perform much better than he did in a debatable October win over Edner Cherry.

The Future: Pedraza's second defense hadn't been set.

68.

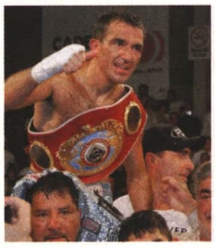
ANDY **LEE**

The Rundown: Middleweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 34-2-1 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Lee has a knack for the comeback. He'd been on the canvas once and had been hurt again when John Jackson walked into a perfect right-hook counter. Similarly, Lee was down on the cards against Matt Korobov when Korobov landed a good left and then went for the KO with a wide right hook. But Lee's more economical right got there first and it was the beginning of the end. That won Lee a vacant world title. Those who thought he got lucky felt vindicated when Peter Quillin put him down early this past April. But Lee rose, battled back, scored a knockdown of his own with that counter right and retained his belt with a draw. It's a decent run so far for someone who suffered devastating losses to Bryan Vera in 2008 (later avenged) and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in 2012.

The Future: Lee's defense against Billy Joe Saunders, postponed due to a Saunders injury, will now be Dec. 19 in Manchester.

69.



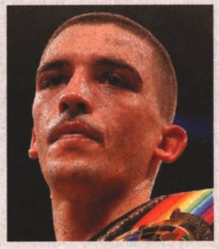
OMAR **NARVAEZ**

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 44-2-2 (23 KOs) ★ Last year: 31

The Reasons: The knock on Narvaez for all his longevity was that his title runs at 112 and 115 didn't mean as much as they could've given who they came against. Still, he held one title or another — and was almost undefeated — for 14 years, reigning as a flyweight titleholder from 2002 to 2009 and going 15-0-1 in his defenses and then holding a junior bantamweight title from 2010 until the end of 2014. He won 11 times in his defenses, interrupted by a brief jump up to 118 to unsuccessfully challenge Nonito Donaire. That was Narvaez's first loss until he met rising 108-pound sensation Naoya Inoue late last year. Inoue put Narvaez down four times in two rounds. That said a lot about Inoue. We'll see what Narvaez can say for himself; he's not retiring just yet.

The Future: Narvaez returned with an October win, turned 40 and will continue to fight.

70.



LEE **SELBY**

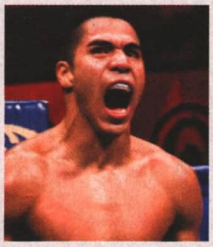
The Rundown: Featherweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 21-1 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Selby passed his first big test in 2011 when he stopped the previously undefeated Stephen Smith, who's gone on to become a junior lightweight prospect. That victory was more meaningful than a loss Selby suffered on points in his fifth pro fight. And he continued to develop in the years leading up to his shot at a world title, notching nine more wins against opponents with a combined record of 171-16-4, including then-unbeaten Joel Brunker and former 122-pound contender Rendell Munroe. All that led to Selby's challenge of Evgeny Gradovich this past May and Selby fought up to the occasion. He was far ahead on the scorecards when the fight was stopped in the eighth due to an accidental headbutt.

The Future: Selby was to fight outside the U.K. for the first time against Fernando Montiel on Oct. 14 in Arizona. He hopes to face some of his fellow Al Haymon featherweights soon.

CHARLO: ETHAN MILLER/GOLDEN BOY; LEE/QUILLIN: FUKUDA; JACK: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; VARGAS: CHRIS HYDE/GETTY IMAGES;GUEVARA: ATSUSHI TOMURA/GETTY IMAGES

71.



JESUS CUELLAR

The Rundown:
Featherweight ★ Record: 27-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
The most familiar names on Cuellar's record are a pair of fighters at or near the end of their careers. He sent Juan Manuel Lopez into retirement with a second-round stoppage in 2014 and then this past June withstood a good effort from Vic Darchinyan before putting the "Raging Bull" out to pasture. Now Cuellar wants to make a name for himself even if he's far from the biggest star in Al Haymon's stable of featherweights. Lopez, Darchinyan and Rico Ramos are three of the victories Cuellar has scored in a 10-fight win streak dating back to his first and only loss, a seventh-round technical knockout in 2011 to future 122-pound contender Oscar Escandon. It was Cuellar's lone fight at the junior featherweight limit. He went back up to 126, a move that has proven to be wise.

The Future:
Cuellar was due to face Jonathan Oquendo on Dec. 5 in Brooklyn.

72.

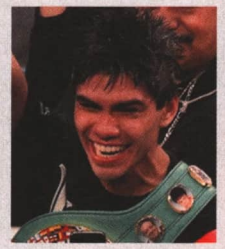
TOMOKI KAMEDA

The Rundown:
Bantamweight ★ Record: 31-2 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: 64

The Reasons:
Kameda thinks he should be undefeated. But even with his pair of unanimous-decision losses to Jamie McDonnell in 2015, the youngest of the three fighting brothers merits inclusion on this list. He was barely 22 when he outpointed undefeated Paulus Ambunda for a world title in 2013 and he made three successful defenses afterward, scoring a decision over Immanuel Naidjala, taking Pungluang Sor Singyu out with a body shot after a decent seven-round battle and then edging Alejandro Hernandez by a split decision in a fight that turned out to be tougher than anticipated. Kameda then vacated the title to take on McDonnell. Their first fight was closer on the official scorecards than the second, although Kameda again put forth a worthy effort in the rematch. He's still just 24 and will get another chance.

The Future: The next move for Kameda hadn't been announced.

73.



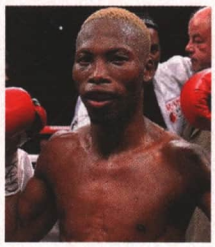
PEDRO GUEVARA

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 26-1-1 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Guevara's first title shot was a heartbreaker; he lost a split decision to Johnriel Casimero in 2012 and the difference was a point he lost due to a knockdown in the opening round. He got another chance and took full advantage, winning a vacant belt at 108 by knocking out former RING flyweight champ Akira Yaegashi at the end of 2014. Guevara has successfully defended twice. He needed less than a round to give Richard Claveras his first pro loss and then he went the distance to take a unanimous decision over Ganigan Lopez.

The Future:
Guevara was scheduled to travel back to the country where he won his title, Japan, to defend against Yu Kimura on Nov. 28.

74.



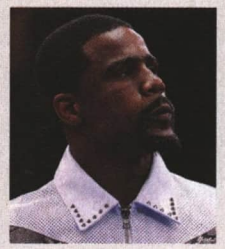
ZOLANI TETE

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 21-3 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 90

The Reasons:
Tete had been so close to getting a world title for so long that it was somewhat surprising that he went from finally winning a belt to voluntarily dropping it less than a year later. He was stopped by 112-pound titleholder Moruti Mthalane in 2010, lost a majority decision to Juan Alberto Rosas in a 115-pound elimination bout in 2011 and lost a split decision in another to Roberto Domingo Sosa in 2012. But then Tete triumphed in a battle with Juan Carlos Sanchez Jr. in 2013, earning a fight for a vacant title. He outpointed Teiru Kinoshita and then retained with a technical knockout of Paul Butler. But he felt a fight with mandatory challenger McJoe Arroyo paid too little so he vacated. He has lost leverage but has stayed busy by putting away Diuhl Olguin this past September.

The Future:
Tete's next outing hadn't been scheduled

75.



ANDRE DIRRELL

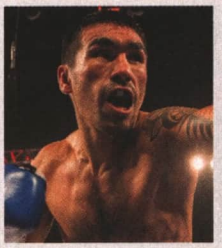
The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 24-2 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Dirrell had a five-year gap between his last appearance in the Super Six tournament and his next shot at prominence in the 168-pound division. And even though he lost that shot at a vacant title to James DeGale and was put down twice early in the process, Dirrell's performance in the unanimous-decision defeat reminded us why there were high hopes for him before and why he still can compete against and perhaps beat some of his super middleweight counterparts today. His only other loss was an ugly and disputed split decision against Carl Froch. Dirrell was ahead against Arthur Abraham in 2010 when Abraham floored him and then hit him while he was down, leading to a disqualification. An on-and-off comeback brought five wins between late 2011 and the end of 2014. He'll need to start another streak to get another shot.

The Future:
Dirrell's next fight hadn't been scheduled.

KAMEDA: JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES DIRRELL: MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES; SHAFIKOV: ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; CUENCA: ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

76.



DENIS SHAFIKOV

The Rundown: Lightweight ★ Record: 36-1-1 (19 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Shafikov might just be one of the best things to come out of Miass, Russia. He turned pro at 18 and spent a decade fighting at and around junior welterweight in his home country as well as Belarus, Finland, Latvia, the United Kingdom and Mexico. Then he dropped to lightweight and in 2014 had a title shot in Macau, China. Alas, it came against the tremendously difficult Miguel Vazquez, who won a unanimous decision. Shafikov's going to get another chance soon. He stopped Rustam Nugaev in nine rounds, won a decision over Miguel Mendoza, then blew through Roy Mukhlis in three. The victory over Nugaev helped position him to fight for a now-vacant belt; he'll step in against Rances Barthelemy.

The Future: Shafikov-Barthelemy was expected to take place on Dec. 5 in Brooklyn.

77.

CESAR CUENCA

The Rundown: Junior welterweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 48-0 (2 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: The record above does not contain a typo. Cuenca truly only has two knockouts in his 48 wins. And in case you think his gaudy unbeaten record means he's had it easy over the years, just remember that a fighter with little power never truly has it easy. There's plenty of skill and technique in Cuenca's game. And now at nearly 35 years old and nearly 50 fights into his career he's beginning to step up against a better tier of 140-pounders, though they're still not on world-class level. Cuenca traveled outside of Argentina for the first time to outpoint undefeated Ik Yang in July in Macau, picking up the vacant world title formerly held by Lamont Peterson. He'll be in Russia next, defending against the unbeaten Eduard Troyanovsky. Given his style and how few know him, getting fights with top names might not be easy.

The Future: Cuenca-Troyanovsky was scheduled for Nov. 4.

78.

KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA

The Rundown: Strawweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 30-7 (12 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Remarkably, Takayama has been in the world-title picture for more than a decade. This is his third time holding a major belt. Back in 2005 he outpointed Isaac Bustos, then lost in his first defense to Eagle Kyowa. He dropped a split decision to titleholder Yutaka Niida in 2007, was thoroughly outpointed by RING 100 top fighter Roman Gonzalez in 2009, came up short against titleholder Nkosinathi Joyi in 2012, lost to Mateo Handig after that but then bounced back surprisingly by beating Mario Rodriguez for a belt in 2013. He made two successful defenses before losing to Francisco Rodriguez Jr. in one of the best fights of 2014. Before the year was out he had picked up a vacant title again, stopping Go Odaira in seven. Since then he's defended with a technical decision over Fahlan Sakkreerin and a stoppage of Ryuji Hara.

The Future: Takayama's third defense of his third reign hadn't been scheduled.

79.

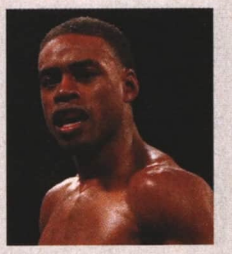
KOKI KAMEDA

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 33-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: 60

The Reasons: Once a huge star in Japan, there hasn't been much going on in Kameda's career in the past two years. He and his fighting brothers having their family gym banned in their home country didn't help. Fortunately, signing with Al Haymon may have changed things for the better. The former flyweight titleholder, whose lone loss came to Pongsaklek Wonjongkam, had been at 118 before dropping down a weight class, declining a shot at then-top bantamweight Anselmo Moreno in the process. In his first fight at 115, after nearly a year away, he took out Omar Salado on a Haymon card in Chicago. After almost another year of inactivity, Kameda will face a fellow Japanese fighter, junior bantamweight titleholder Kohei Kono, in the Windy City on a Premier Boxing Champions show.

The Future: Kono vs. Kameda was scheduled for Oct. 16.

80.



ERROL SPENCE

The Rundown: Welterweight ★ Record: 18-0 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Spence hasn't defeated a Top 10 welterweight yet but the way he's beating everyone else shows that this prospect is about ready to be considered a contender. He's definitely the brightest prospect from the 2012 U.S. Olympic boxing team. Spence didn't medal but that hasn't been an indication of any shortcomings in the pro ranks. His development in recent fights has included a decision over Ronald Cruz in mid-2014 and five straight early nights since, including stoppages of Samuel Vargas in four rounds in April, Phil Lo Greco in three rounds in June and the tough but outgunned Chris van Heerden over eight rounds in September. Observers are high on Spence. We'll see how high he can go.

The Future: The next name in Spence's sights hadn't been set.

81.

ARTUR **BETERBIEV**

The Rundown:
Light heavyweight ★ Record: 9-0 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Beterbiev is another of those accomplished amateurs to come out of the gates quickly upon entering the paid ranks. The biggest names on his record admittedly are a pair of faded 175-pounders: Tavoris Cloud, who Beterbiev demolished in 3½ minutes in 2014 in just his sixth fight, and Gabriel Campillo, who lasted 9½ minutes this past April in what was Beterbiev's eighth pro fight. Beterbiev turns 31 in January but he still has time to further develop. His team is confident enough to forgo that, though. He and Igor Mikhalkin are expected to face each other in an elimination bout for one of the three world titles presently held by Sergey Kovalev.

The Future:
Beterbiev-Mikhalkin was supposed to take place on Nov. 28 but was called off due to an injury.

82.

GILBERTO **RAMIREZ**

The Rundown:
Super middleweight ★ Record: 32-0 (24 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Gilberto Ramirez wasn't as young as Canelo Alvarez when he turned pro; Ramirez was 18, Alvarez 15. But like Canelo, Ramirez has compiled a significant number of fights in his development and is beginning to step up his level of competition. In 2010 he was the first to defeat Rogelio Medina, the guy who upset J'Leon Love last year. Familiar journeymen he defeated along the way include Samuel Miller, Marcus Upshaw, Derrick Findley, Giovanni Lorenzo and Fulgencio Zuniga. In 2015 Ramirez kicked it up another notch, handing Maxim Vlasov his second pro loss (the other came to Isaac Chilemba) by a unanimous decision, and then shutting out Derek Edwards, whose previous outings saw him upset Badou Jack with a first-round KO and then lose to Andre Dirrell.

The Future:
Ramirez had a Nov. 20 date scheduled against the 22-1 Gevorg Khatchikian, whose only loss came against James DeGale.

83.

JULIAN **WILLIAMS**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 21-0-1 (13 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Hailing from Philadelphia, a city with a history of producing talented boxers, Williams may just be the next fighter to love from the City of Brotherly Love. He outpointed the faded Joachim Alcine in 2013, quickly dispatched journeymen Orlando Lora and Freddy Hernandez and then continued to work his way toward being seen as a contender. A rivalry developed with fellow Al Haymon 154-pounder Austin Trout in 2015. Williams went the full 10 rounds in shutting out Joey Hernandez while Trout put Hernandez away five months later in six (Hernandez said he was drained for Trout). But then it was Williams sending a message to fans, and Trout at ringside, when he took out Luciano Cuello impressively in half a round in September.

The Future:
Even if a fight with Trout isn't next, Williams clearly is ready to face some of the others vying for attention at junior middleweight.

84.

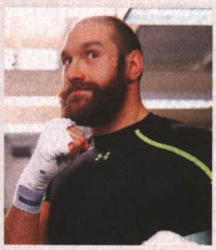
AUSTIN **TROUT**

The Rundown:
Junior middleweight ★ Record: 30-2 (17 KOs) ★ Last year: 80

The Reasons:
While other American fighters are jockeying for position in the 154-pound division, Trout is trying to make the case that he shouldn't be discounted just because he already had his chance. Trout experienced a sudden ascent when he went from being a fringe contender to outpointing Delvin Rodriguez to scoring an upset win over Miguel Cotto at Madison Square Garden in 2012. Those who thought the result indicated that Cotto was done know otherwise these days. Trout, however, wasn't able to capitalize. He lost decisions to Canelo Alvarez and Erislandy Lara in 2013. Aside from shaky early moments against Daniel Dawson in early 2014, Trout's comeback is coming along at 4-0 (3 KOs). He put away Joey Hernandez in six and issued a challenge to up-and-coming junior middleweight Julian Williams.

The Future:
Trout's next fight had not yet been set.

85.



TYSON **FURY**

The Rundown:
Heavyweight ★ Record: 24-0 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked.

The Reasons:
Fury is a big guy who talks a big game and, so far, has backed it up. The 6-foot-9 heavyweight from the United Kingdom has developed against an array of prospects and journeymen. He survived early shakiness against Dereck Chisora in 2011 to hand Chisora his first pro loss and then stopped him in 10 rounds in their 2014 rematch. He similarly had to get off the canvas before finishing Steve Cunningham in 2013. He also has beaten Kevin Johnson, Neven Pajkic and Martin Rogan but none of these fighters are on the level of Fury's next foe, heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko. Fury is said to be named after Mike Tyson. If the namesake is to become like "Iron Mike," then he'll have to go through Dr. Steelhammer.

The Future:
Klitschko-Fury was rescheduled after a Klitschko injury to Nov. 28 in Dusseldorf, Germany.

GROVES: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES; RAMIREZ: JUSTIN EDMONDS/GETTY IMAGES; WILLIAMS: MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES; GROVES: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES;

86.

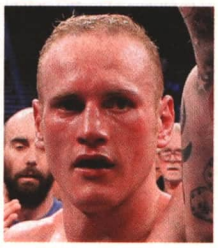
JESSIE VARGAS

The Rundown: Junior welterweight/ welterweight ★ Record: 26-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: 91

The Reasons: Vargas may very well have been moments away from being much higher on this list. Or maybe not. In his mind, he was robbed of an opportunity to put Tim Bradley away in their June fight. With seconds left in Round 12, Vargas hurt Bradley with a right hand and was pursuing with more shots. But then referee Pat Russell jumped in, mistakenly thinking the 10-second warning was the final bell. Bradley argued afterward that he'd blocked some of Vargas' punches and would've survived. Alas, it was otherwise a clear decision loss for Vargas, his first official defeat. He'd taken debated decisions over Josesito Lopez in 2011 and Khabib Allakhverdiev and Anton Novikov in 2014 but looked pretty good outpointing Antonio DeMarco later that year. He's still trying to add a victory over a big-name opponent to his record and he's apparently willing to fight at 140 or 147 to do so.

The Future: There was no fight scheduled yet for Vargas.

87.



GEORGE GROVES

The Rundown: Super middleweight ★ Record: 21-3 (16 KOs) ★ Last year: 77

The Reasons: Groves had already been stopped twice — once controversially, once convincingly — before stepping in to challenge titleholder Badou Jack this past September. And then Groves went down in the first round. What could've marked a sign that he was done as a contender in the 168-pound division ended up being a chance to show his resilience, as Groves was able to battle back and save face by making for a more competitive outing. He still dropped a split decision and is now 0-3 in world title shots. But there's still some promise, so long as the right changes are made. Groves downed Carl Froch early in their first fight. The rematch was close on the scorecards when Froch ended it. Groves still holds a victory over current titleholder James DeGale from when both were prospects. None of that will mean much if he doesn't do something big sometime soon.

The Future: Groves didn't have his next bout lined up yet.

88.

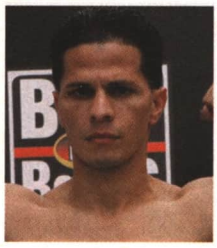
ANTHONY DIRRELL

The Rundown: Super middleweight ★ Record: 28-1-1 (22 KOs) ★ Last year: 87

The Reasons: Dirrell had a feel-good story when he went from being a cancer survivor to recovering from a motorcycle crash to winning a world title with his 2014 decision over Sakio Bika. Alas, that feel-good story wasn't long-lived. Dirrell dropped a majority decision this past April to Badou Jack. His story need not be over, though. Dirrell came back in September with a shutout over Marco Antonio Rubio. That was a nice, quick return for a fighter who was out of the ring for extended stretches before due to circumstances beyond his control. Lymphoma kept him away from 2007 through much of 2008 and the crash left him sidelined in 2012 and into 2013. He's 30 and of course is happy to be alive but is aiming for far more than that.

The Future: Dirrell's next fight hadn't been announced.

89.



McJOE ARROYO

The Rundown: Junior bantamweight (IBF title) ★ Record: 17-0 (8 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: McJoe is one of the wonderfully named Arroyo twins. McWilliams, a flyweight, got to a title shot first but fell short against Amnat Ruenroeng in 2014. McJoe fared better. He went from stopping enjoyable former 112-pounder Hernan Marquez in mid-2014 to outpointing Mark Anthony Geraldo to fighting for a vacant title on Showtime against the unbeaten Arthur Villanueva. It wasn't anywhere as enjoyable as hardcore fans hoped it would be but Arroyo was well ahead on the scorecards when a Villanueva cut caused by an accidental headbutt brought the fight to an end in the 10th. Of the two brothers, he's the one to watch – for now.

The Future: Arroyo's first defense hadn't been announced.

90.

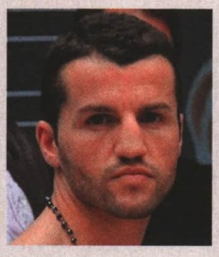
MORUTI MTHALANE

The Rundown: Flyweight ★ Record: 31-2 (20 KOs) ★ Last year: 59

The Reasons: On the plus side, Mthalane has some wins over a pair of pretty good fighters who are either on this list or have appeared on it before. But he also hasn't done too much since dropping his world title. Mthalane was truly his "Babyface" nickname at 21 years old when he suffered his first defeat, getting stopped by Nkqubela Gwazela in 2004. His only other loss came via technical knockout to then-flyweight Nonito Donaire in 2008. Barely a year later Donaire had vacated his belt and Mthalane won it by outpointing Julio Cesar Miranda. Mthalane's first two defenses were stoppages of future 115-pound titleholder Zolani Tete and future 108-pound titleholder Johnriel Casimero. He added two more defenses before ditching his belt, saying the fights offered to him would pay too little. After 18 months of inactivity, he came back in 2014 with two wins and then spent another year on the sideline.

The Future: South African papers reported Mthalane would face Makazole Tete on Nov. 8.

91.



DEJAN ZLATICANIN

The Rundown: Lightweight ★ Record: 21-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Those who tuned in to Showtime Extreme for the undercard prior to Deontay Wilder's fight in June got an impressive glimpse of Zlaticanin, who needed less than four rounds to stop a fellow unbeaten 135-pounder in Ivan Redkach. But Zlaticanin was known on other shores a year before. After all, in mid-2014 he traveled to Scotland, put Ricky Burns down in the first round and was able to leave hostile territory with a split-decision win. Zlaticanin also had a decision victory in his native Montenegro in 2013 over Petr Petrov, who went on to win one version of the "Boxcino" tournament that aired on ESPN2. Those three victories, particularly the one over Redkach, have put him in line for a world title shot.

The Future: Zlaticanin is now the mandatory challenger for WBC titleholder Jorge Linares. No date had been announced.

92.

VANES MARTIROSYAN

The Rundown: Junior middleweight ★ Record: 36-2-1 (21 KOs) ★ Last year: 94

The Reasons: It's difficult to write off Martirosyan just yet. He hasn't won the big one but he also hasn't lost the big ones badly. While he hasn't gotten victories when they count the most, he's nevertheless picked them up when they still matter – in fights that keep him in the picture at 154. After besting Kassim Ouma and Joe Greene in 2010, it took until 2012 for Martirosyan to get a big fight, a title eliminator against Erislandy Lara that ended as a nine-round technical draw. Martirosyan got a shot at a vacant belt a year later, losing a split decision to Demetrius Andrade. Martirosyan rebounded in late 2014 by outpointing Willie Nelson only to drop a decision to Jermell Charlo this past March. That put a lot of importance on his September fight with Ishe Smith, which turned out competitive but Martirosyan won it by a majority decision thanks in large part to two timely knockdowns.

The Future: Martirosyan's next fight hadn't been scheduled.

93.

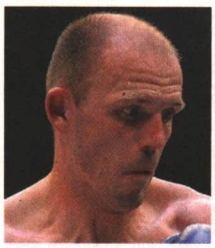
KOSEI TANAKA

The Rundown: Strawweight (WBO title) ★ Record: 5-0 (2 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Kosei Tanaka is trying to follow the ambitious path blazed by Japanese countrymen Kazuto Ioka and Naoya Inoue. Ioka was 21 years old and in his seventh pro fight when he won a world title at 105. Inoue was 20 and in his sixth pro fight when he won a major belt at 108. Tanaka was two weeks away from turning 20 and in his fifth fight when he defeated Julian Yedras by a unanimous decision to win a vacant title at 105 in May. It was a nice early birthday present for Tanaka. We'll see just how gifted he is. One fight before that, he was the first person to beat prospect Ryuji Hara. Tanaka's five wins since turning pro in late 2013 have come against opponents with a combined record of 83-18-4 on fight night.

The Future: Nothing was set but it'd be interesting to see him in a unification bout with Katsunari Takayama.

94.



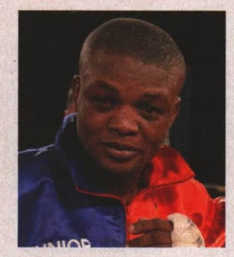
JUERGEN BRAEHMER

The Rundown: Light heavyweight ★ Record: 47-2 (35 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: Braehmer has an impressive record that becomes less impressive when you realize that he has never stepped up against the best that 175 has to offer. He began as a super middleweight way back in 1999, lost a majority decision to Mario Veit in 2006, won a rematch in 2007 and then moved up to light heavyweight. That quickly led to his second defeat, with Hugo Hernan Garay outpointing him in 2008. It's no surprise, then, that Braehmer has been content in his own corner of the division. He briefly held a world title beginning in 2009 but only made two defenses before being stripped. Now he has a belt this magazine doesn't recognize but it doesn't matter so long as he can stay in Germany, win fights and make money. Recent victims include Enzo Maccarinelli, Roberto Bolonti, Pawel Glazewski, Robin Krasniqi and Konni Konrad.

The Future: A Nov. 7 fight against Thomas Oosthuizen was canceled due to injury.

95.



ILUNGA MAKABU

The Rundown: Cruiserweight ★ Record: 19-1 (18 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons: No one who saw Makabu lose in 30 seconds in his first pro fight would've pictured him being where he is now. He quickly moved from 175 to cruiserweight and continued his development, challenging and conquering far better foes than the only person ever to beat him. His May victory over Thabiso Mchunu put him in the mandatory position to face titleholder Grigory Drozd. And before that, he edged fellow prospect Dmytro Kucher, took out the faded Glen Johnson and made quick work of guys who it's good to make quick work of. Makabu needed five rounds to give Eric Fields his second pro loss, four rounds to give Gogita Gorgiladze his first of many losses, three rounds to do the same to Tamas Lodi and two rounds to put the initial blemish on Ruben Mino's record.

The Future: The fight with Drozd was postponed after the titleholder suffered an injury. A new date hadn't been set.

SOR RUNGVISAI: AFP/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; VARGAS: JOSH HEDGES/GETTY IMAGES; MAKABU: LEE WARREN/GALLO IMAGES; TANAKA: JIJI PRESS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; IMAM: HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

96.

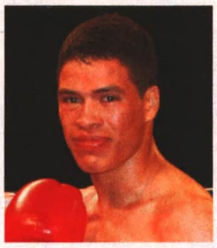
AMIR **IMAM**

The Rundown:
Junior welterweight ★ Record: 18-0 (15 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Just when you think Don King is finished as a promoter, he gets another fighter who keeps him afloat. Right now, that fighter is Imam, who isn't merely afloat but is rising in the 140-pound division. There wasn't any indication this would happen during his first eight fights, all easy victories over inexperienced or overmatched opposition. We got a glimpse of his potential in April 2013, when Imam bested Jeremy Bryan in five minutes on Showtime. Since 2014, we've gotten an even better idea. Imam stopped prospect Jared Robinson in four, outpointed Yordenis Ugas, knocked out Santos Benavides, put Fidel Maldonado down four times in four rounds (and went down once himself), took a decision over Walter Castillo and made highlight reels by turning off Fernando Angulo's lights. Imam is on the verge of a title shot against Viktor Postol.

The Future:
Imam's next fight hadn't been announced.

97.



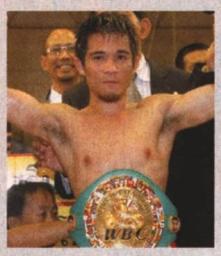
JULIO **CEJA**

The Rundown:
Junior featherweight ★ Record: 30-1 (27 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Ceja got his start as a 16-year-old junior flyweight before growing into heavier divisions and greater things. If that sounds familiar, know that Ceja isn't the next Manny Pacquiao but he is a new face at 122 who impressed with his last performance. Ceja was knocked down in the third round against former bantamweight contender Hugo Ruiz in August, only to get up and take Ruiz out two rounds later. It was a good victory for an interim belt that should make him a true world titleholder given that Leo Santa Cruz has left the division. Ceja had largely been at 118 since 2012, adding victories and experience. His only loss came against Jamie McDonnell in 2013, which McDonnell won by majority decision.

The Future:
Ceja could end up facing mandatory challenges from Qiu Xiao Jun and Rey Vargas.

98.



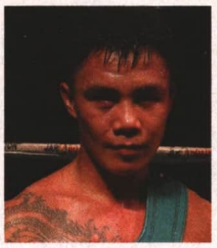
SRISAKET **SOR RUNGVISAI**

The Rundown:
Junior bantamweight ★ Record: 36-4-1 (33 KOs) ★ Last year: 100

The Reasons:
Sor Rungvisai lost his world title in May 2014 when a headbutt opened a cut on Carlos Cuadras. The fight was stopped after eight rounds and Cuadras was ahead on the scorecards. And so ended a brief reign that began a year before with a technical knockout of Yota Sato and included one successful defense, a stoppage of Hirofumi Mukai. He has stayed busy with nine fights since the Cuadras loss, almost all of them against no-hopers, but he also took out contender Jose Salgado in four rounds this past May. He's in line for a rematch with Cuadras and deserves one, which is quite the position to be in for a fighter who went 1-3-1 in his first five fights and was knocked out twice, including in his debut against future champion Akira Yaegashi.

The Future:
Nothing was official yet for when Cuadras-Sor Rungvisai II would take place.

99.



WANHENG **MENAYOTHIN**

The Rundown:
Strawweight (WBC title) ★ Record: 39-0 (14 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Menayothin spent nearly all of his first 35 pro fights padding his record, the only exception being a 2011 decision over former 105-pound titleholder Florante Condes. He stepped up again when it came time for a world title shot in late 2014. Menayothin triumphed, stopping Oswaldo Novoa in nine rounds. He has made two successful defenses since then, winning a unanimous decision this past February to give Jeffrey Galero his first loss and then dispatching Jerry Tomogdan in nine rounds in June.

The Future:
Menayothin is scheduled to face Young Gil Bae on Nov. 24 in Thailand.

100.

RYOICHI **TAGUCHI**

The Rundown:
Junior flyweight (WBA title) ★ Record: 22-2-1 (9 KOs) ★ Last year: unranked

The Reasons:
Taguchi had setbacks that could've deterred him from getting to where he is today. He lost a unanimous decision in his 10th pro fight to the more experienced Masayoshi Segawa back in 2009 and was outpointed by the gifted Naoya Inoue in 2013 – Inoue's fourth pro fight. But Taguchi has gotten past those defeats. He went from taking a decision over former 105-pound titleholder Florante Condes in mid-2014 to winning a world title by decision over Alberto Rossel later that year. Taguchi's first defense came this past May, when he scored an eighth-round technical knockout over Kwanthai Sithmorseng.

The Future:
Taguchi's second defense hadn't been scheduled.

GREATEST HITS

MIGUEL COTTO AND **CANELO ALVAREZ** HAVE TURNED IN MANY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES. HERE ARE FIVE EACH THAT HAVE HELPED SHAPE THEIR CAREERS.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE • You can read these feature stories on RingTV.com by following the urls or clicking on the QR codes.

MEXICAN IDOL: NEXT GENERATION
CANELO ALVAREZ IS A HYBRID HERO
http://bit.do/mexican-idol

THE ULTIMATE RIVALRY
MEXICO VS. PUERTO RICO FIREWORKS
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COTTO: NATURE OR NURTURE?
FREDDIE ROACH'S ROLE IN HIS SUCCESS
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HEAD-TO-HEAD ANALYSIS
THE RING BREAKS DOWN THE FIGHT
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JOHN LAMPARSKI/GETTY IMAGES

The Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez fight will be among the biggest of their careers.

MIGUEL COTTO

1. RICARDO TORRES

Date: Sept. 24, 2005 • **Site:** Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City • **Result:** KO 7 • **The background:** Torres was unbeaten but also relatively unknown going into this fight, the fourth defense of Cotto's WBO junior welterweight title. Cotto put Torres down four times en route to a seventh-round knockout to run his record to 25-0 (with 21 knockouts).

Why it was special: The fact Cotto emerged victorious isn't what stood out about the fight. Torres, a wicked puncher, put Cotto down once and hurt him at least four times in a fight that seemed to be an upset in the making. Cotto survived, demonstrating the resilience that would help him build a Hall of Fame career.

2. ZAB JUDAH

Date: June 9, 2007 • **Site:** Madison Square Garden, New York City • **Result:** TKO 11 • **The background:** Cotto, defending his WBA welterweight title, was facing a quick, slick boxer-puncher who had given Floyd Mayweather Jr. trouble the previous year but had also lost to Carlos Baldomir in the fight before that.

Why it was special: This arguably was the best year of Cotto's career, as he beat in succession prime versions of Judah and Shane Mosley. Cotto not only outboxed Judah – leading 97-91 on all three cards – but also stopped him to prove he could dominate an ultra-fast, very athletic opponent.

3. SHANE MOSLEY

Date: Nov. 10, 2007 • Site: Madison Square Garden, New York City • Result: UD 12 • The background: Mosley had lost some fights by this time but, even at 36, was still considered a stiff test for Cotto. This was Cotto's third defense of his WBA title, which he would lose to Antonio Margarito two fights later.

Why it was special: The back-and-forth fight was very close and difficult to score but Cotto emerged with a unanimous decision – 116-113, 115-113 and 115-113 – arguably Cotto's most significant victory until he stopped Sergio Martinez in 2014. Cotto was still unbeaten at this point, through 31 fights.

4. ANTONIO MARGARITO

Date: Dec. 3, 2011 • Site: Madison Square Garden, New York City • Result: TKO 9 • The background: Cotto waited a long time for this fight. In 2008, Margarito had handed Cotto a vicious beating before stopping him in the 11th round. Later, many speculated (but never proved) that Margarito's gloves were loaded.

Why it was special: Cotto was able to put bad memories aside and exact revenge in the sweetest of manners, breaking Margarito down before finally stopping him in the ninth round to retain his WBA junior middleweight title. Margarito, who was pummeled by Manny Pacquiao in his previous fight, never fought again.

5. SERGIO MARTINEZ

Date: June 7, 2014 • Site: Madison Square Garden, New York City • Result: TKO 10 • The background: Remember, many believed that Cotto was finished as an elite fighter when he lost back-to-back fights to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Austin Trout in 2012. Two fights later, he fought the RING middleweight champ.

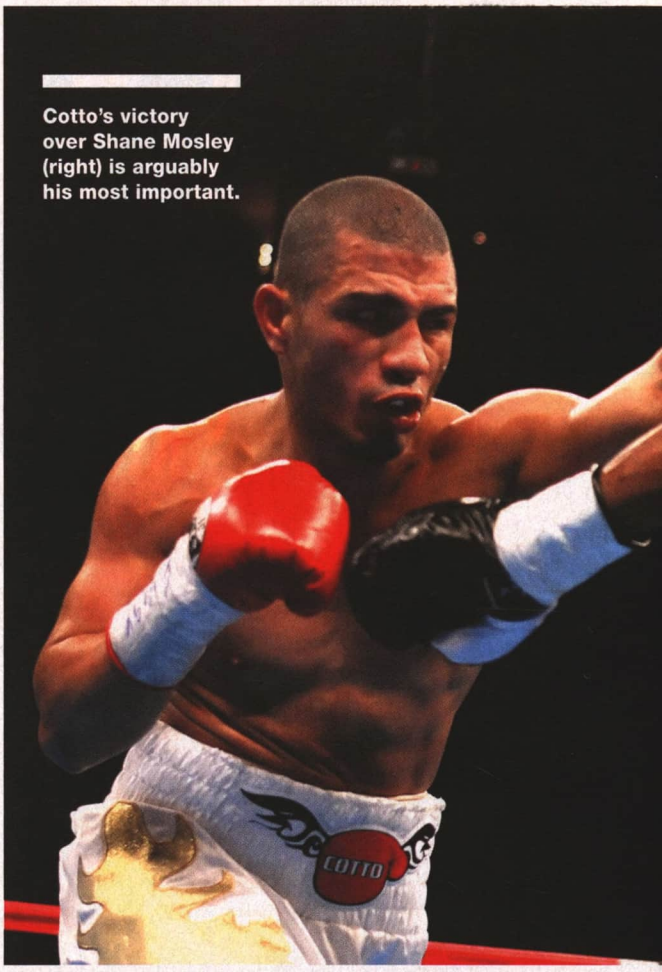
Why it was special: Martinez's body seemed to be falling apart but, still, many believed he had more than enough left to dominate Cotto. He didn't. Cotto put the Argentine down three times in the first round and never looked back to reestablish himself as a major player in the sport at 33 years old.

CANELO ALVAREZ

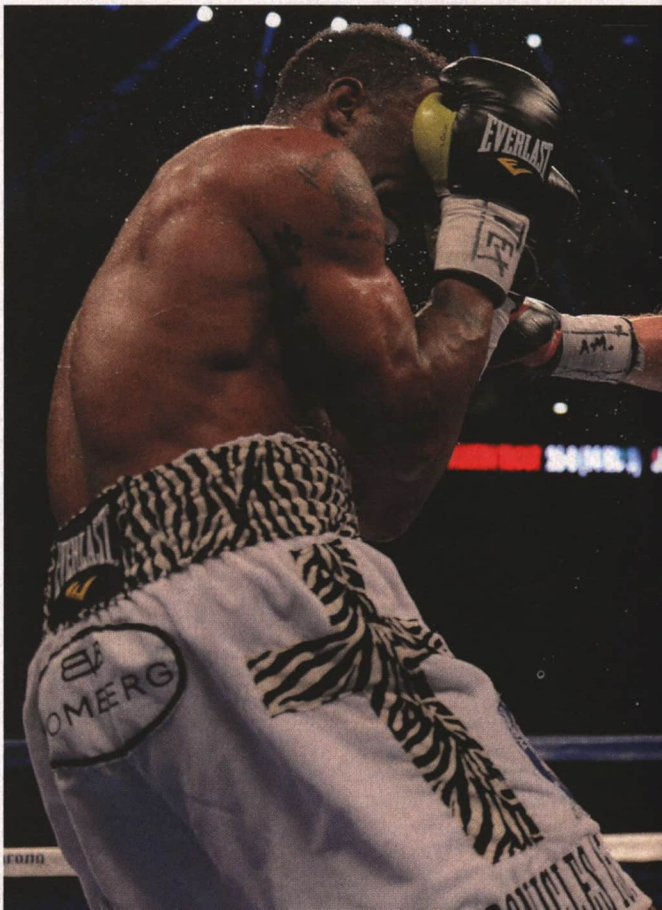
1. SHANE MOSLEY

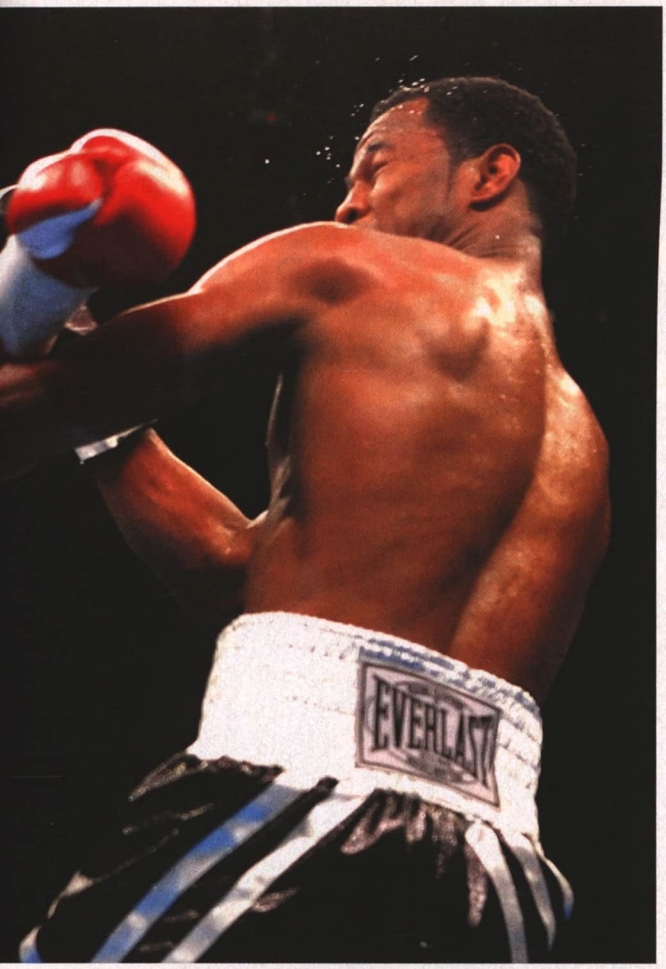
Date: May 5, 2012 • Site: MGM Grand, Las Vegas • Result: UD 12 • The background: Mosley was past his prime by the time he met Alvarez but he was by far the most accomplished fighter Canelo had faced to date, an important test in his still-young career.

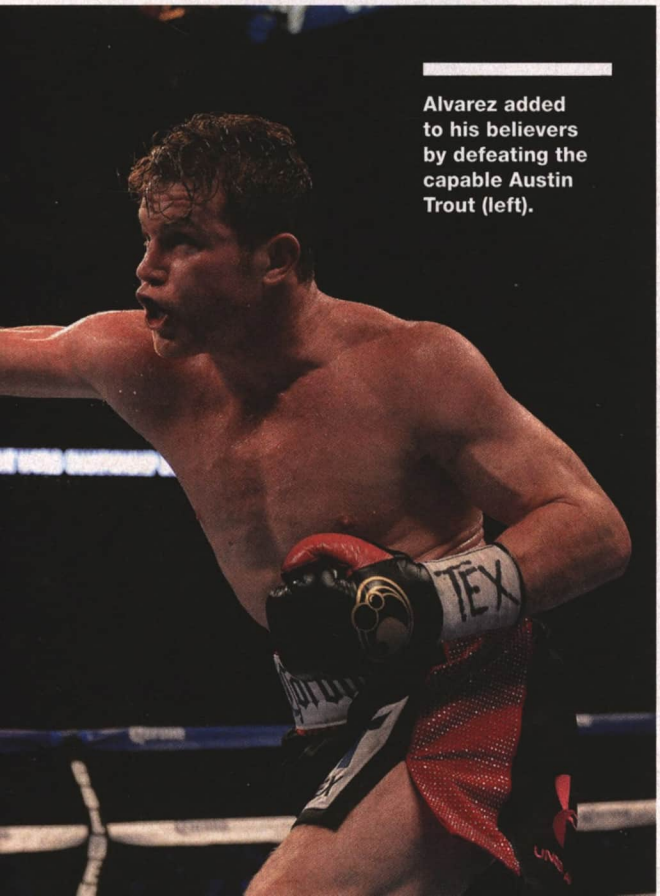
Why it was special: Alvarez dominated an overmatched Mosley much as Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao had in recent fights, proving to be too fast, too good and too tough for the aging veteran. It was the most convincing evidence yet that he was more than just a product of immense hype.



Cotto's victory over Shane Mosley (right) is arguably his most important.







Alvarez added to his believers by defeating the capable Austin Trout (left).

2. AUSTIN TROUT

Date: April 20, 2013 • Site: Alamodome, San Antonio • Result: UD 12 • The background: The slick, strong Trout was undefeated and coming off a surprisingly dominating decision victory over Cotto. That's why he was deemed a very real threat to Alvarez, who was coming off a KO of Josesito Lopez.

Why it was special: Alvarez outboxed Trout to win a unanimous decision in a close fight. The performance was particularly meaningful because no one could argue this wasn't a legitimate test. And he passed.

3. ALFREDO ANGULO

Date: March 8, 2014 • Site: MGM Grand, Las Vegas • Result: TKO 10 • The background: Angulo was more tough than talented but he served as an important opponent because of Alvarez's previous fight, a lopsided, frustrating loss – his first – to Floyd Mayweather Jr. How would that disappointment affect the young fighter's confidence?

Why it was special: If Alvarez's psyche was damaged by the Mayweather setback, it certainly didn't show. He coolly, methodically broke down a rugged fighter in Angulo before ending matters 47 seconds into Round 10. It was as if the Mayweather debacle had never happened. Canelo was back.

4. ERISLANDY LARA

Date: July 12, 2014 • Site: MGN Grand, Las Vegas • Result: SD 12 • The background: Say what you want about Lara, the one-time amateur standout from Cuba – he's extremely difficult to beat. Only one fighter, Paul Williams, had done so before Lara met Alvarez and that outcome was disputed.

Why it was special: The debate over who deserved the decision rages on but this much seems clear: Alvarez fought on at least even terms with one of best pure boxers in the world in his biggest test aside from Floyd Mayweather Jr. Alvarez won 115-113, 117-111 and 113-115, an important step in his career.

5. JAMES KIRKLAND

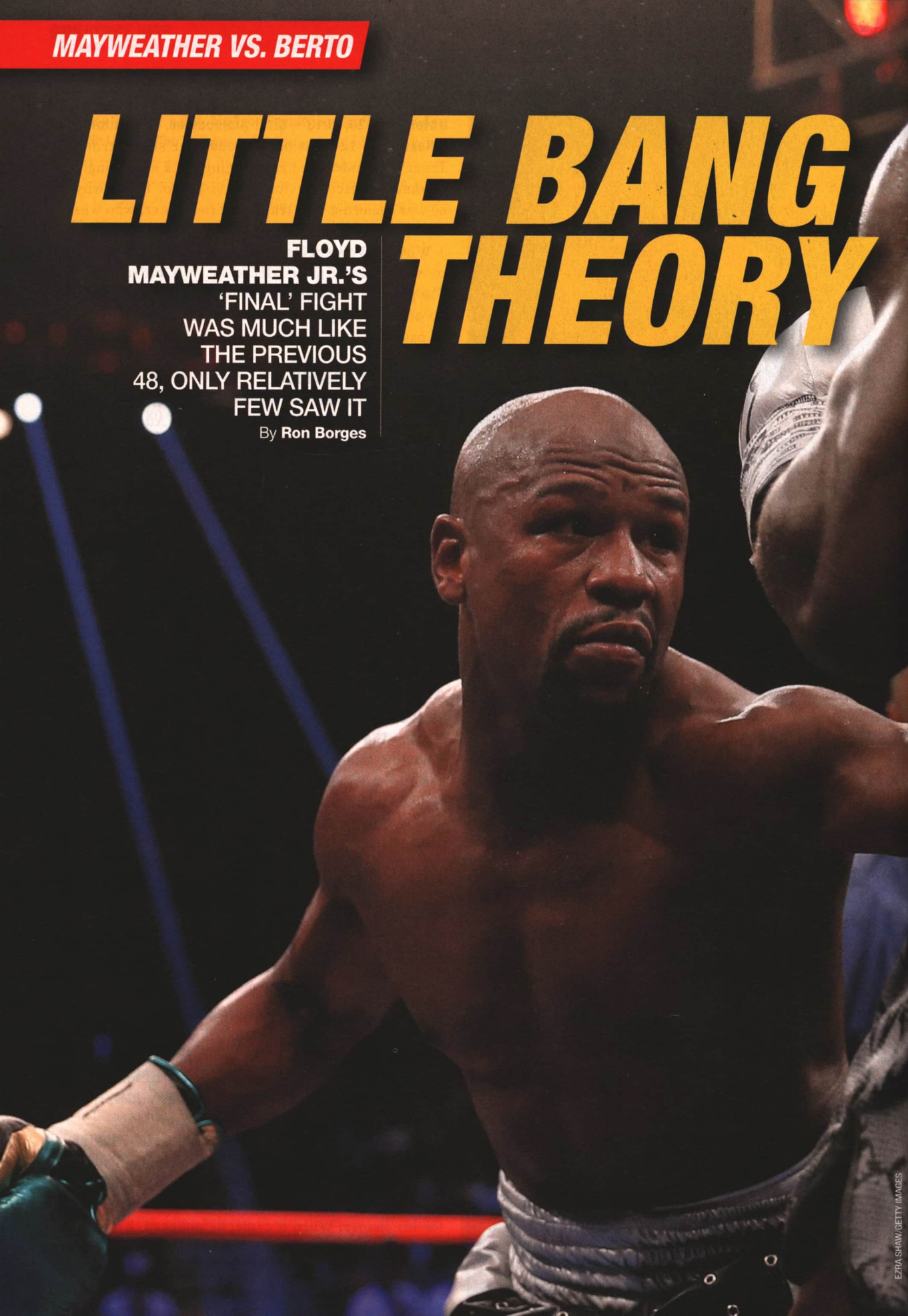
Date: May 9, 2015 • Site: Minute Maid Park, Houston • Result: KO 3 • The background: Kirkland wasn't a top-tier opponent going into this fight but he was a beast of the first order, a fighter who tries to maim his opponent with every punch and sometimes does. How would Alvarez stand up to the onslaught?

Why it was special: Kirkland did exactly what he was expected to do, coming out like a madman at the opening bell. Alvarez as calmly as possible withstood the storm – demonstrating his maturity – and waited for his chance. When it came, he pounced. Kirkland went down three times before the third round was over in an absolute thriller.

LITTLE BANG THEORY

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.'S 'FINAL' FIGHT WAS MUCH LIKE THE PREVIOUS 48, ONLY RELATIVELY FEW SAW IT

By **Ron Borges**



EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Floyd Mayweather Jr. toyed with overmatched Andre Berto for much of their fight in September.

If Sept. 12 was indeed the last we see of Floyd Mayweather Jr. in boxing trunks, he went out with a whimper, not a bang. Considering his fighting style, that was probably appropriate.

To expect him to go out with a bang was foolish since his game has always been more about avoiding a bang than delivering one. In the end Mayweather's approach to his final fight was exactly how he approached many of the previous 48, which is to say by taking a low-risk and one-sided points victory from two-time welterweight champion Andre Berto.

When it was over, the 38-year-old Mayweather fell to his knees in the center of the ring, the only time he's been there in his 19-year career. But the right side of his face was red and he looked drained. That didn't change the reality of his 49th win, however, which was confirmed by judges Dave Moretti (117-111), Steve Weisfeld (118-110) and Adelaide Byrd (120-108).

Mayweather has never been about the Big Bang theory but rather someone focused on getting the biggest bang for your buck. On that score his final fight was a fiscal flop for everyone but him, not that that should have come as a surprise either. As it turns out, even hardcore boxing fans have their limits and Mayweather finally exceeded them in offering up a well-shot Berto as his handpicked farewell fight yet he still was paid at least $32 million, which is remarkable on so many levels it is difficult to fathom.

Depending on whom you want to believe, Mayweather-Berto did around 400,000 buys on pay-per-view at $70 a pop. That's a good night for most boxers but an abject failure for Mayweather, who has been a part of the three biggest pay-per-view shows in boxing history (vs. Oscar De La Hoya, Canelo Alvarez and Manny Pacquiao). That buy total was the lowest since Mayweather did 325,000 for an HBO Pay-Per-View fight against Carlos Baldomir in 2006.

Under most circumstances, everyone wants to watch the final show of a long-running hit series but perhaps that was part of the problem: Hitting was never Mayweather's game. Not, at least, in the sense of boxing's most popular fighters.

Mayweather was always far more Winky Wright than De La Hoya. He was popular more for what he was outside the ring, which is to say a villain with an artist's flair, than what he was in the ring, an artist without much ferocity.

Previous fighters who dominated pay-per-view – Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Pacquiao and De La Hoya – did so because fans paid to see them win. In Mayweather's case, many paid in hopes he'd lose. He never did because he was a consummate defensive fighter and an admirable professional always ready to perform in his own fashion when the bell rang. He won fights but he never really won fans' hearts.

Although Mayweather was the finest boxer of his generation, he was never someone the crowd loved. That was clear against Berto simply by the fact the crowd didn't show up to say goodbye.

Not only was his final appearance inside a boxing ring not a pay-per-view success, it was not a box office success either. The announced crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena was 13,395, which is not only well below capacity but a house Vegas insiders insisted was wallpapered like a French castle's dining room. Whatever the truth of that, as far as a farewell to arms goes, it was a decidedly understated gesture from the public.

"You got to know when to hang it up," Mayweather (49-0, 26 KOs) said after he'd nearly whitewashed the earnest but mismatched Berto (30-4, 23 KOs), loser of three of his last five fights and someone who'd been knocked down five times in recent matches with Victor Ortiz, Robert Guerrero and Jesus Soto Karass.

Neither Ortiz nor Guerrero came even close to being competitive when losing to Mayweather. That, coupled with the assessment by Floyd Mayweather Sr. that "the one thing I've seen from Berto is he has no defense," did little to boost sales.

Despite the one-sided nature of the fight itself, Mayweather explained his departure the way someone with any sense in his head who has spent his life around boxing should: Danger lurks there for everyone if

you stay too long at the punch bowl.

"If you stick around anything too long, anything can happen," Mayweather said. "I'm not really worried about losing but I want to have a sharp mind. You can make a lot of money but you still want to be able to talk, walk and have a sharp mind.

"I'm close to 40 years old. I've been in this sport 19 years. I have nothing left to prove. I'm leaving the way I want to leave. My career is over."

Perhaps but that is a song long sung by aging fighters, only to see them return in a year or two in search of one last moment, one last thrill and, most often, one last payday. The latter should never be a motivation for Mayweather, whose fights have grossed more than half a billion dollars, but in boxing you never know.

If there has to be a benefit fight for him in a year or two he'll have no one to blame but himself because he and manager Al Haymon concocted the best, most one-sided contract in boxing history with the six-fight deal just concluded with Showtime.

It was so lopsided that Mayweather was guaranteed $32 million to face Berto (who is also handled by Haymon and was paid $4 million for his efforts), a matchup nobody wanted but the participants. When it turned into a pay-per-view flop Berto told TMZ, "It's definitely Floyd's fault. He left a sour taste in everybody's mouth because of the Pacquiao bombshell."

One thinks he meant "bomb" but you get the point.

Amazingly, despite his announced retirement, both the WBC and the WBA have yet to strip him of the welterweight and junior middleweight titles he holds. Maybe they're just waiting for the gold watch to be delivered. Only THE RING and the WBO took immediate action, vacating their welterweight titles.

At some point, those organizations will have no choice if Mayweather continues to insist we've seen the last of him inside a boxing ring. But no hurry, apparently.

Where Mayweather's retirement

NBA player James Caron Butler, rapper Shad "Bow Wow" Moss, former Arizona Cardinals coaching intern Jen Welter and TV personality Darian "Big Tigger" Morgan provided star power to Mayweather-Berto.

REPORT CARD

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. UD 12 ANDRE BERTO Sept. 12, 2015, MGM GRAND, LAS VEGAS

THE MAIN EVENT

D

Mayweather toyed with his far-inferior opponent from beginning to end in his latest – last? – dominating but uneventful performance.

MAYWEATHER

B+

Mayweather was as untouchable as ever but some expected more offense given Berto's limitations. They were disappointed.

BERTO

C

Berto gave it his all but didn't have the wherewithal to be competitive. He had a few moments when he attacked with abandon but it didn't matter much.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.

Mayweather's trainer

A

Senior should be applauded for keeping his focus on the fight when it was clear Berto had no chance and his son became emotional.

VIRGIL HUNTER

Berto's trainer

B

Hunter is a good trainer but not a miracle worker. He implored Berto to stay on top of Mayweather to wear him down. Easier said than done.

THE JUDGES

B

Adalaide Byrd, Dave Moretti and Steve Weisfeld scored it 120-108, 117-111 and 118-110. Three rounds for Berto, Dave? Generous guy.

KENNY BAYLESS

The referee

A

Bayless did a good job, as usual. The idea is for a ref to be as inconspicuous as possible. And Bayless wasn't a factor in this fight.

THE ATMOSPHERE

D

One veteran boxing writer at ringside for Mayweather-Berto summed up the ambiance during the main event: "Pretty blah."

THE UNDERCARD

B+

Badou Jack-George Groves, Roman Martinez-Orlando Salido and Jonathan Oquendo-Jhonny Gonzalez were all entertaining fights.

- Michael Rosenthal

leaves the sport is an open debate. He has long insisted he's TBE, The Best Ever. Of course, generally if you truly are TBE, you don't have to wear a baseball cap announcing it. Others take care of that for you.

Where he fits in boxing's grand pantheon of champions is an open debate but where he does not fit is as TBE because that he never was. He was TBOHG, the best of his generation. But that doesn't put him in the same discussion with fighters like Sugar Ray (Robinson or Leonard). Nor does it put him in the discussion with Henry Armstrong, who was called Homicide Hank for a reason.

He would never have faced Marvin Hagler (good thing) for the same reason he had no interest in facing Gennady Golovkin. Both were too big for him. Fair enough. The guy was barely a welterweight.

How would he have fared against someone like Mickey Walker or Roberto Duran when both were lightweights? Frankly, not well. And the same is true had he ever had to box Hearns, who would've done damage because, unlike Leonard, Mayweather didn't have the artillery to keep "Hitman" off him. On top of that, Hearns had the boxing skills to put him in bad places. If you think not, go watch the first Leonard-Hearns fight and see who boxed best that night. Here's a clue: It wasn't Leonard.

The signs that Mayweather was right in his assessment that Father Time, who remains undefeated, was closing in on him were on the bruised right side of his face. His eye was puffy and his cheek red, two things a guy like Berto couldn't have done to him with an ax handle four or five years ago.

Even Mayweather admitted those marks couldn't be ignored, saying after the fight, "I got a little bump and bruises but it's OK. I made upwards of $70 million tonight."

That latter statement was a delusion but the former was not. There are few fighters today smarter than Mayweather when it comes to assessing the situation inside a boxing ring and he knew what he was looking at when he watched himself on tape or looked at his face in the mirror after the last couple of fights.

He was seeing someone who remained undefeated but not for much longer if he continued to put his body on the line in the most unforgiving sport on earth.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. operated his career the way the suits who run insurance companies do. He assessed risk and did all he could to avoid it. That was his greatest skill, his ability to box without fighting any more than he had to.

Once asked if he didn't just once want to find himself in the kind of pitched battle that made Arturo Gatti a legend despite his relative lack of skills, Mayweather looked at his questioner as if he'd just been released from a mental institution.

He then said, "No. Why would I want to do that?"

Damn good question.

And so he never put himself in such situations and for that he deserves praise because his boxing skills, ring intelligence, agility and speed of both foot and mind were exceptional. Nobody was paid more for taking fewer risks than Mayweather. He made Wladimir Klitschko and Lennox Lewis look like Evel Knievel by comparison, but he always came out the winner for it. In the end, isn't that what the game is all about?

Boxing, like all professional sports, is about winning and about maximizing income. Say what else you will or may about Floyd Mayweather Jr. but on that score at least he probably was TBE.

No one will ever remember him as a great warrior but no one can deny this: He was both a defensive master and a master marketing manager.

It was Mayweather who concluded halfway through his career that his then-promoter Bob Arum's idea of trying to sell him as "Pretty Boy Floyd" was never going to make him the kind of pay-per-view salesman he hoped to be. So he abandoned Arum, went off on his own and became "Money" Mayweather.

What he understood was the crowd doesn't have to love you as long as they pay you. As he once said, "Whether they're cheering for me or booing me, they're all paying to watch me."

That was true almost to the end. On that score he stayed one fight too long, going out not with the record-setting night against an injured and well-past-his-prime Pacquiao but with one in which a large segment of the public said, "No thanks."

As goodbyes to the best fighter of his era go, it was decidedly underwhelming except in the only area Mayweather ever seemed to really care about. Money Mayweather cashed out one last time, leaving without the crowd's cheers but with millions of dollars.

There are worse ways to go into retirement.

"No fight was (ever) really hard," he insisted and few could quarrel with that assessment. "If a fight was difficult, it was because I made it difficult. It didn't matter what opponent I chose, I got the same result. I don't know another fighter who made it look so easy. I make it look so easy. It's not cool to take punishment in the ring.

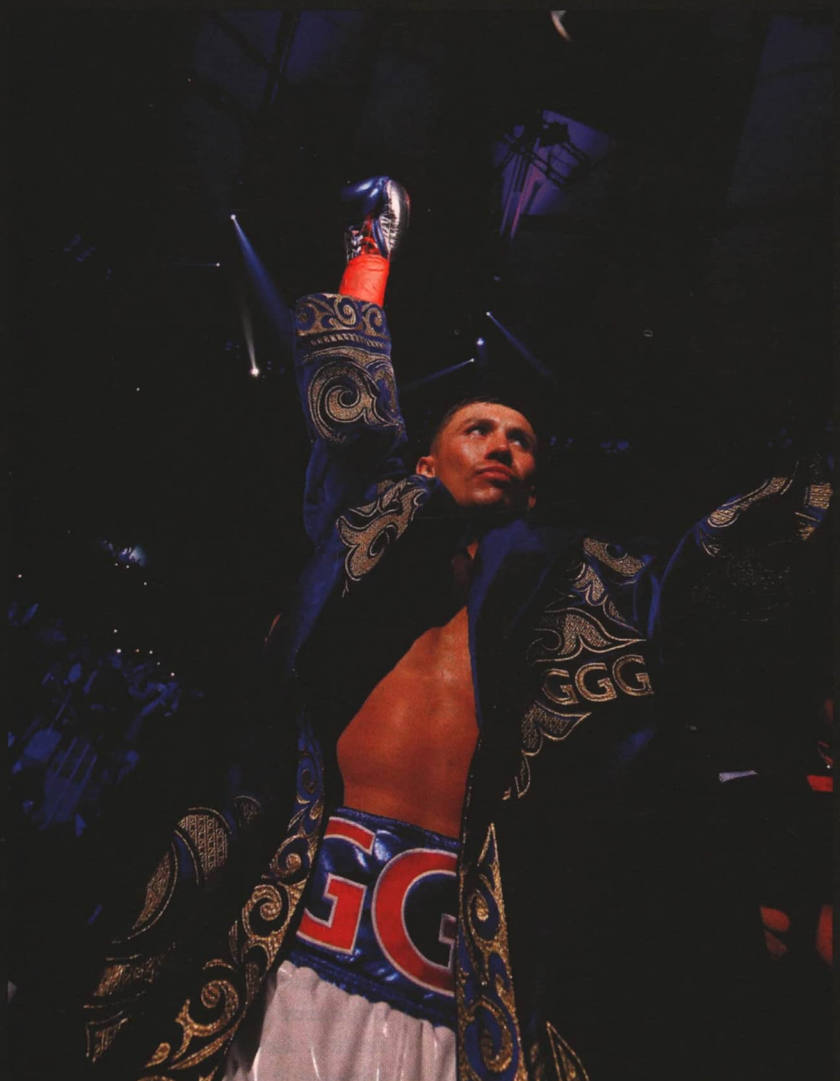
"I did everything the way I wanted to do it. I've been in the sport of boxing my whole life and they say I'm wrong for saying I'm the best.

"I could care less," Mayweather says of his critics. "Nobody's forced to watch. Watch if you want to watch. If you don't want to watch, don't watch. Write about it if you want to write about it. If you don't want to write about it, don't. I'm not saying if you write good or bad, just continue to write. Keeps me relevant.

"The only thing I can do is believe in myself and believe in my skills. I'm going to be The Best Ever 'til the day I die."

BRAVO! BRAVO!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Gennady Golovkin-David Lemieux fight occurred after our deadline to have this issue completed but we were able to hold this page to include the result.



Few doubters remain after Gennady Golovkin's win on Oct. 17.

GOLOVKIN AND GONZALEZ TURN INTERESTING MATCHUPS INTO UTTER ROUTS

By **Michael Rosenthal**

The highly anticipated fights on Oct. 17 at Madison Square Garden in New York City were more showcases than competitive battles. Gennady Golovkin and Roman Gonzalez made sure of that.

A lot of fans expected fireworks when Golovkin met big puncher David Lemieux in the main event. Instead, GGG demonstrated that a sublimely skilled boxer-puncher can turn a feared slugger into his patsy, as a badly beaten Lemieux was stopped in the eighth round of the middleweight title-unification bout.

That's 21 consecutive knockouts for Golovkin even though he has faced a string of solid opponents in recent years. Remarkable.

Brian Viloria is better than Lemieux, a very good boxer with pop in his punches and experience. Didn't matter. The Hawaiian was brave but overmatched against Gonzalez, the No. 1 fighter in the world and RING flyweight champ, who methodically tore Viloria apart and won by KO in Round 9.

That's 10 straight KOs against a very high level of opposition. Again, remarkable.

In one sense, fans had to be disappointed. They generally want either competitive fights or wars filled with drama or both. These were none of the above, which drained some of the energy from an enthusiastic crowd of 20,548.

In another sense, all would agree that it was a privilege to witness the co-features. Rarely do two such gifted boxers display their wares back-to-back on the same card. The fights weren't thrilling but they still left you shaking your head in awe.

And it could only get better for the stars of the show.

Golovkin very likely will face the winner of the Nov. 21 Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez fight, who will instantly become the best and most important foe he will have faced. That's a blockbuster regardless of the opponent, one that will catapult GGG to another level if he emerges victorious.

In a way, he's just getting started at 33. The next few years should be very interesting for the Kazakhstani and his growing legion of fans.

"I want all the belts. Now I have two," Golovkin said. "The winner of Cotto-Canelo for sure. I'm not sure who will win that fight but I want to fight the winner next. I'm staying at 160 until I have all the belts."

Gonzalez? He's probably headed toward a rematch with the RING's No. 1-rated flyweight, Juan Francisco Estrada, who gave Gonzalez some resistance in 2012. That's a compelling fight.

After that, there isn't much star power in the lighter weights, meaning Gonzalez will likely have to continue to build his reputation by simply destroying those who stand in front of him. And few doubt he will.

It's extremely difficult to imagine either Golovkin or Gonzalez losing a fight in the near future.

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CAPED CRUSADER

TYSON FURY TURNS INTO A COMIC-BOOK HERO AS PART OF HIS CHALLENGE TO WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO By **Gareth A Davies**

There is no doubt that Tyson Fury has his detractors but he couldn't give two hoots about what people say. He clearly knows how to promote himself and his fights. He lightens up what has been a dull division for years. I take nothing away from Wladimir Klitschko and his achievements but Fury has the boxing classes chattering.

His latest stunt was his impersonation of Batman at that now-famous press conference in London. Fury's desire to entertain should not be dismissed out of hand. The pictures went viral that day.

British promoter Eddie Hearn, who is co-promoting the Klitschko vs. Fury fight – rescheduled for Nov. 28 – told me: "In boxing you can't just be beige. No one's interested. How many press conferences do we go to where I've sat there saying, so-and-so, tell me about this fight ... and all the boxer will say is that, 'It's a great opportunity for me, I've had a great camp and I'm ready.'

"Tyson Fury, after that press conference, ignited interest. ... I went out that night, got in a London cab and the cabbie asked, 'What's that Tyson Fury all about then? Is he mad?' When taxi drivers are talking about a boxer, it's a great indicator of interest. The truth is that Tyson understands the game. He's very, very clever."

I visited Fury's training camp in the North of England – Ormskirk, a few miles to the north of Liverpool – which is in a field with three caravans beside a converted barn. It is open, windswept and spartan. Just how they wanted it.

"Sometimes I just play up to the character people want me to be," Fury told me. "There's nothing someone could say to me on Twitter that would really affect me and get me raging. It's all banter and fun and games. Sometimes I go fishing for bites, as well. I say daft stuff to get a reaction. I believe it's me against the world. If I was a normal person, this wouldn't happen. It's because I'm singled out that I get s--t.

"All boxers are very well known if they're good. I'm not interested in any of the fame, though. I only do it because I have to do it. It's not something I relish or look forward to. It's just part of the job for me. It's part and parcel of being a famous boxer. There is that showman side of me as well that thinks these people are here to be entertained."

He's certainly doing that. Now Fury needs to follow that up in the ring on Nov. 28.

DARREN BARKER

Darren Barker has always been a compelling figure for writers. He's a modest, instantly likeable man with a long, grueling journey toward a world title, his thoughts seemingly forever underpinned by the tragedy of losing his brother, Gary, when the two teenagers were boxers and best friends. A book of his life thus far – "A Dazzling Darkness: The Darren Barker Story," written with journalist Ian Ridley – has moving insight into Barker's world. And what perhaps makes the account by ghostwriter and fighter even more raw is the fact that Ridley first met Barker when they were both in therapy for alcohol addiction.

Gary Barker was just 19 when he was killed in a car accident, plunging Darren into deep depression and alcoholism. The story of his recovery and rise toward the IBF title is a compelling read. Gary served as Darren's inspiration every step of his career, right up to the night he beat Daniel Geale to realize his goal of winning a world championship to honor Gary's memory.

I can recall Darren telling me himself of that night in Atlantic City against Geale. He was down on the canvas in the sixth round. He found himself looking into Gary's face. "When I talk about that moment, being on the floor, it seems as if I'm trying to make a movie script out of it or something like that but the emotions and the thoughts that went through my head were strange," he said. "They say when you have a near-death experience your life flashes in front of you and it was like that. That nine seconds seemed like an eternity."

"So many thoughts were racing through my head and like I said, the desire to win and dedicate it to my brother was so great that all I could see was visions of him, then visions of my daughter. Really, really vivid. So much flashed in front of me. I saw my brother; 100 percent, I could clearly see him. The force in me in that moment and the pictures in my head at that time were incredible. There he was and, yeah, basically it was him saying, 'Get up.' You know what I mean? 'Get up. Get up.' He was urging me. It seems as if I'm trying to muster up something but I remember it. It makes me smile. It was that vivid and that clear that I do think he was there."

Joe Calzaghe says of the book and Darren: "Great boxer. Great man. Great story."

OVILL MCKENZIE

Ovill McKenzie had nothing to lose as a big underdog when he challenged Victor Emilio Ramirez for the IBF cruiserweight title in Buenos Aires, having taken the world title contest on 11 days' notice. He fought the fight of his life and ended up on the raw end of a judging decision

with a split draw. The judges saw it 115-113, 113-115 and 114-114. Terrible outcome.

McKenzie's 10-year career has seen its fair share of ups and downs – he lost six of his first 11 fights – since he arrived in Great Britain from Kingston, Jamaica, in 2003. He has admitted that "hunger," metaphorically and at times literally, has driven him toward his dream.

"I grew up on the streets of Kingston where my mum taught me to hustle by selling things. ... It was the only way we knew at the time," said McKenzie, who has an extraordinarily muscled physique.

"I've fought when I was hungry before, I know what it's like to have nothing in my belly. That's when the best comes out of me. I have a heart, I'm not scared of no one. I will go anywhere and fight anyone. That's me. That's the way I've been since the start."

McKenzie, 35, came into the sport late by normal standards. "I started boxing when I was 19. Before that, my boxing just came from the street, every Friday and Saturday night with friends. We had two pairs of gloves. I don't know where they came from but we used two pairs of gloves and we boxed on the street. We'd block the road off and fight.

"There were no disputes, we were friends just messing about. There were three of us. Every Friday night we'd box on the street and people would come out and watch. No car would be able to pass us because people would block the place.

"One day I knocked my best mate out. I knocked him out, man. And his mum cut the gloves off him and cut them up with a pair of scissors. His mum said, 'You need to go and get a job and do something.'"

From 2003, he was based in the U.K. yet recognition has rarely come his way. He should have come home with a world title. Frank Warren, his promoter, has told me that the IBF is "hearing our appeal for a rematch."

If there's any justice, McKenzie will get that fight – and in the U.K.

FRANK WARREN

"I'm an innovator, not a survivor," said Warren, who was celebrating 30 years of promoting world title fights and the fourth anniversary of his channel, BoxNation, in September. When Terry Flanagan met Diego Magdaleno for the WBO lightweight title in Manchester on Oct. 10, it marked three decades since Warren and American Bob Arum began working together on promotions.

The very first was in 1985 at a sold-out National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham as Colin Jones took on American star Donald Curry. It was Warren's first world-title venture and it set the tone for the next three decades, during which time Warren has challenged what was more or less a BBC boxing monopoly by showcasing the sport on network rivals ITV and then Sky with its pay-per-view arm and thereafter setting up his own boxing subscription channel.

"It was much harder in those days to get a fight on," he said. "First of all there were only two TV channels. That was hard enough getting ITV on board. And then it was about getting the fighters. I started from scratch with nothing. I had to get the fighters into position to challenge for a world title. Colin Jones had two attempts against Milton McCrory in the States and it didn't work out for him. To get it on was significant not only for me but for ITV. It showed they were big players on the domestic scene and it led to all those great nights in the late '80s and '90s.

"It's just innovation. You evolve. When I started out it was in venues and there was only BBC television. I had to get ITV involved and I succeeded in doing it. The next thing was then pay-per-view. I did the very first pay-per-view on Sky TV. We launched Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson and that was the very first pay-per-view on Sky. Sky back then only had 4 million subscribers. "

The veteran promoter shows no sign of slowing down, either. "Now we've built a television business and every year we've had 30 percent growth on the channel. That's huge. We started from nothing. We started with zero subscribers and our job is to evolve and be innovative in using that evolving market. Content is key, as they say. We actually own what we're doing. We're now taking that out to the world. We're opening up in India, Kazakhstan and Russia. We're launching there early next year and they're big markets."

TOP 15 (as of Oct 11)

1. AMIR KHAN
2. KELL BROOK
3. LEE SELBY
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. JAMES DEGALE
6. SCOTT QUIGG
7. TYSON FURY
8. JAMIE MCDONNELL
9. GEORGE GROVES
10. MARTIN MURRAY

10-15: Billy Joe Saunders, Tony Bellew, Callum Smith, Kevin Mitchell, Terry Flanagan.

And finally ...

Vijender Singh, a boxer from India, made his professional debut against Sonny Whiting on Oct. 10 in Manchester on Warren's BoxNation channel. He was brought over by Warren's son, Francis. Singh aims to become as big a name in world boxing as he is in his native country, where more than 100 million fans follow his every move after he won titles at the Olympics, the World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. He has even been in Bollywood movies, with directors falling over themselves to sign him. "I'm a police officer. I'm built from middle-class foundations. I didn't need to box but I love being a pro boxer. Now my aim is to win a world title," the middleweight told me. It will be a fascinating journey on another continent for him, as India expects. Cheers.

Gareth A Davies is boxing correspondent for The Telegraph, London.

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

EXCERPTS FROM THE RINGTV.COM EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN By Doug Fischer

Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialog – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbag."

The following excerpts are from the Oct. 5 and Oct. 9, 2015, editions of the Monday and Friday mailbags.

STUART, from Scotland, was surprised that Viktor Postol knocked out odds favorite Lucas Matthysse in the 10th round of their Oct. 3 fight to earn the vacant WBC 140-pound title. He asked Fischer if the eye injury Matthysse claimed after the bout had something to do with the Argentine puncher's decision to stay down for the 10 count, what might be next for both junior welterweights and if Matthysse – who appeared hapless at times against the tall Ukrainian technician – is in need of a new trainer. Stuart also opined that Matthysse "needs to be matched with a certain style of fighter in order to be successful and entertaining."

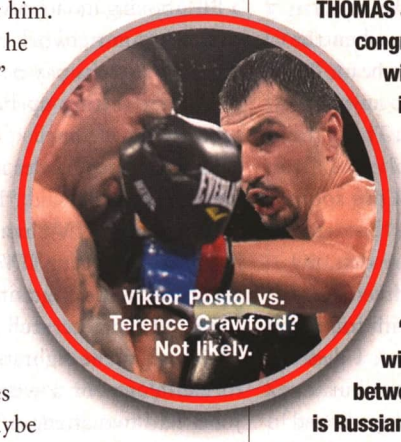
DOUGIE'S REPLY: Even though I picked Matthysse to (narrowly) win on points, I wasn't surprised that Postol won the fight. I viewed the bout as a 50-50 matchup coming in. However, like you, I was surprised that he won by stoppage.

I do believe that Matthysse's left eye had a part in his staying down after being dropped but I think Postol deserves all the credit for injuring that eye with his right cross (although it's possible that their accidental headbutt in Round 7 started or contributed to the damage).

What's next for Postol? Well, it sounds as if HBO is interested in matching him up with undefeated WBO 140-pound beltholder Terence Crawford (who, like new WBC titleholder, is promoted by Top Rank) and it sounds as if Postol is into that idea.

"I was told there's a big star out there, WBO champ Terence Crawford," Postol said during the post-fight press conference. "I'm ready for him. Question is, is he ready for me?"

I don't expect Crawford's management to lobby for that matchup.



Viktor Postol vs. Terence Crawford? Not likely.

I'm not sure where Matthysse goes from here. Maybe a comeback fight against a mid-level fighter and then aim for fellow Argentine (and unbeaten IBF beltholder) Cesar Cuenca.

Regarding Matthysse's training situation, I think Luis "Cuty" Barrera is a limited trainer. In my humble opinion, Matthysse would be better served upgrading current assistant trainer Juan Coggi (a former three-time 140-pound beltholder who stresses boxing fundamentals) to his head coach or even bringing back Pablo Sarmiento (another former pro fighter – best known for his work with Sergio Martinez – who used to train Lucas when he was based in Southern California).

I don't agree with your opinion that Matthysse should only be matched with specific styles in order for him to win and entertain. For starters, Postol probably gives everyone in the division fits (including Crawford). Matthysse had some trouble with Zab Judah and Devon Alexander but most observers believe he deserved the "W" in those bouts and I thought the Danny Garcia fight was competitive. Even if you thought Garcia won "handily" (as many do), I don't think that means Matthysse needs to fear or avoid certain styles. Last time I checked, Judah, Alexander, Garcia and Postol were all legitimate Top 10 junior welterweights when Matthysse faced them. I think the Machine deserves credit for being willing to face so many contenders (including Lamont Peterson, Ruslan Provodnikov, Humberto Soto and Ajose Olusegun) of various boxing styles in the ring.

THOMAS JACKSON, of Finland, congratulated Adrien Broner on winning a fourth major title in a fourth weight class with his 12th-round TKO of Khabib Allakhverdiev on Oct. 3. However, he believes that Allakhverdiev's trainer, John David Jackson, was "clearly overwhelmed with the language barrier" between rounds (Allakhverdiev is Russian and does not speak English; Jackson is American and does not speak Russian).

DOUGIE'S REPLY: Kudos to Broner, not for winning his fourth belt in a fourth division but for beating a solid opponent, looking pretty good doing so and for becoming a player in the 140-pound division.

I definitely think Broner belongs at junior welterweight, where his speed, reflexes, physical strength and stamina will be optimized. I was impressed with his power-punch accuracy, footwork and confidence but I also have to take into consideration that he was facing a guy who did not have the power or ability to really threaten him.

Allakhverdiev's lack of a jab and combination punching against Broner was just as frustrating to watch as Matthysse's one-dimensional approach to walking down Postol.

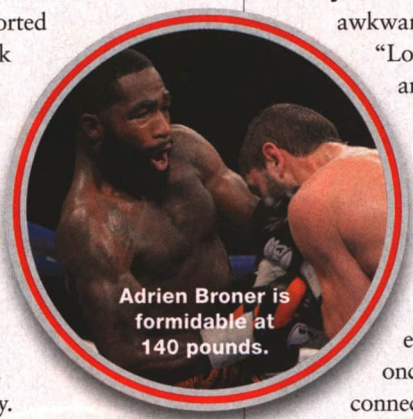
I think Broner's a handful for most junior welterweights but I think he can be outboxed by more complete

POSTOL: NAOKI FUKUDA

and more disciplined boxers such as Crawford and Postol (and even the relatively green Amir Imam). And I still see a guy who is vulnerable against busy/aggressive, heavy-handed fighters such as Matthysse and Provodnikov.

I'm not going to dump on Jackson. The language barrier was not the problem in that corner. His fighter was simply outgunned from the get-go and he didn't even have the Russian for a full camp. Allakhverdiev spent several weeks in Russia training under Roy Jones Jr.'s not-so-watchful eye and then reported to Jackson a week before the fight.

If Broner is willing to step up to 147 pounds again, I bet you Jackson's new pupil, Chris Algieri, can give "The Problem" a run for his money.



Adrien Broner is formidable at 140 pounds.

MIKEY, from Santa Cruz, California, asked Fischer's opinion on a potential welterweight showdown between undefeated WBA beltholder Keith Thurman and once-beaten former titleholder Shawn Porter.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I don't have a favorite in the Thurman-Porter matchup. The talented young American welterweights are evenly matched in my opinion. Porter had the more extensive amateur background, is the physically stronger of the two and probably has the better chin. Thurman hits harder and is faster, more fluid and maybe a little more polished. They're both smart and they're both very good athletes. Their fight comes down to who is better at imposing his style on the other. I hope it happens

ADAM, from Hayward, California, proposed "mythical matchups" between former featherweight champ and Hall of Famer Naseem Hamed and the best of today's 126-pound division. Adam also asked Fischer whether Hamed could've avenged his lone loss to Marco Antonio Barrera.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I'll pit Hamed against THE RING's Top 5-rated featherweights:

1. Nicholas Walters – I think "Naz" would frustrate, and then bewilder the giant Jamaican (assuming Walters could make 126 pounds) before taking him out late.

2. Vasyl Lomachenko – After some awkward early rounds, I think "Loma" would outbox and outwork Hamed to a close but unanimous decision victory.

3. Gary Russell Jr. – I think Russell's speed earns him a little respect from Hamed early in the bout but once the Englishman connected with one of his counter-bombs from an odd angle the fight would abruptly end. Naz by mid-rounds KO.

4. Leo Santa Cruz – Leo's a tough cookie but I think Naz would toy with the forward-marching volume puncher. Santa Cruz would go rounds and try his best but I think he'd get worn down and lose by a late TKO.

5. Lee Selby – See the Russell Jr. result. Naz by mid-rounds KO. "The Welsh Mayweather" is too reliant on his left hand and basic lateral movement. It might take Hamed a few rounds to close the distance but he'd end matters once he connected with the appropriate counter (or body shot).

I don't think Hamed could have avenged his loss to Barrera. The Mexican legend took Naz's fighting spirit in their first bout. The only way I see Naz winning a rematch is if Barrera promised his fans that he'd win by stoppage and actually went looking for the KO. Naz would then have the opportunity to clip him. Marco was/is a smart guy, though. I don't think he'd do that. RING

JACK CATTERALL

THE 22-YEAR-OLD SOUTHPAW IS MAKING WAVES AT 140

By **Tom Gray**

Junior welterweight prospect Jack Catterall had the opportunity to spar with Floyd Mayweather Jr., an invaluable learning opportunity.

Being quiet and reserved outside the ring certainly does not translate into the same qualities within it. Fast-rising junior welterweight Jack Catterall is living proof of that.

The 22-year-old southpaw from Chorley, England, carries a real mean streak and has been developed into a formidable talent since his professional debut in 2012. Following nine straight victories over undistinguished opposition, Catterall was given a late-notice assignment against Tom Stalker, the former captain of Great Britain's Olympic team at London 2012. He entered the ring as an underdog but sent shockwaves through the domestic scene by flooring Stalker twice and claiming a shuddering eighth-round stoppage.

"To be honest, I didn't really have the best training camp for Stalker," Catterall said softly. "I wasn't supposed to win that fight on paper but I knew I could win it quite comfortably. Overall, we were very happy with that performance and it got my name out there.

"Right now I couldn't be in a better place, mentally or physically. The last two and a half years has been a massive learning curve and that will never end because you're always learning in this game."

When asked what weapon or attribute he relies on the most, Catterall's answer was punch perfect.

"I try not to focus on one tool in particular," he said. "As a fighter, you require the artillery to do everything in the ring but I do feel timing is vital. When I get closer to fight night I get sharper and I try to maintain that until it's time to perform.

"Obviously sparring helps in this area and my trainer, Lee Beard, has me doing some brilliant drills on the pads."

Beard is an acclaimed British coach who has worked with former champions Ricky Hatton, Argenis Mendez and Joan Guzman. He learned a portion of his trade in America, under the tutelage of Floyd Mayweather Sr., and is convinced that Catterall, whom he also manages, is a star in the making.

"The only thing Jack needs now is ring experience," Beard said. "When I first started working with him we focused heavily on stretching, agility

training and technical work but all of that has fallen into place nicely.

"We've had him over in America, sparring with the likes of Guzman and Mendez, and that really helped with his development. Initially those guys could make Jack feel very uncomfortable so I advised him how to respond in certain situations and he adapted extremely well."

Earlier this year Beard's American connections allowed Catterall to learn from the very best. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was on the hunt for sparring partners who could mimic Manny Pacquiao and the eager young prospect was selected due to his southpaw style, aggression and pedigree.

"Floyd Mayweather is a flashy and flamboyant guy but you cannot question his dedication to the game," said Catterall. "When you travel to a training camp like that you're kept away from everyday distractions and you focus solely on boxing. I'm disciplined at home but in Las Vegas you have a different bunch of fighters to work with and I pick up things every time I go to a new gym."

Beard concurs and was delighted with how his charge handled himself in such extravagant surroundings.

"Jack did well in sparring and got Floyd's respect," he said. "He made some mistakes but he's in there against the best fighter in the world. Other guys in the camp like Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Cornelius Boza-Edwards and Mickey Bey were all very impressed.

"After sparring, Jack would get cleaned up and just sit and watch what was going on. Floyd has a tremendous work ethic and any young fighter can draw from that."

So what's next? Catterall has yet to claim any domestic titles in the junior welterweight division and might bypass British, Commonwealth and European straps due to a lofty world rating. The WBO had him at No. 9 in its rankings as the magazine went to press.

THE ESSENTIALS
JACK CATTERALL

Age: 22

Weight class: Junior welterweight

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

Stance: Southpaw

Hometown: Chorley, England

Record: 12-0 (8 knockouts)

Biggest Strengths: Willingness to learn ★ eye-catching right jab ★ finishing an opponent.

Biggest question marks: Ability to absorb a direct hit ★ never tested late ★ risk of burnout due to intense schedule.

"I have no problem fighting for the British title," Catterall said. "At the same time I'm ranked pretty high with the WBO so I could head in that direction. The traditional climb through the rankings doesn't really interest me.

"It's one fight at a time and I try not to look too far ahead. I suppose every fighter wants to be a world champion and I'm no different. I want to win a title and unify my division, which should be the goal for every young professional out there."

Catterall is promoted by Queensberry Promotions and Frank Warren, a man experienced in grooming young talent. He believes the sky is the limit.

"Jack is a calm, measured fighter with a ferocious finish," Warren said. "... I believe he will be the new northern star, maybe a genuine successor to Ricky Hatton." RING

3 MORE TO WATCH

DILLIAN WHYTE
HEAVYWEIGHT
(16-0, 13 KOs)

Whyte, from London, is a new force who could potentially make life very uncomfortable for his British counterparts. The former mixed martial artist is scheduled to face Olympic gold medalist Anthony Joshua, whom he defeated as an amateur, on Dec. 12.

DAVID BROPHY
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
(14-0-1, 1 KO)

Brophy, from Caldercruix, Scotland, recently moved up to super middleweight and is heading toward domestic title contention. His KO percentage is misleading due to multiple four-round bouts. He is trained by Billy Nelson, former coach of two-weight world titleholder Ricky Burns.

AHMET PATTERSON
WELTERWEIGHT
(16-0, 6 KOS)

Patterson is another British prospect who is looking to clean up domestically. The 27-year-old, known as "The Punch Picker," is due a British title shot imminently.

ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

TBE

Lucia Rijker

THE 10 BEST FEMALE BOXERS OF ALL TIME

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

It's the great debate in any sport: Who is the best of the best?

That's particularly difficult to determine in boxing, which has no Super Bowl rings or World Series trophies with which to gauge accomplishments.

Thus, to come up with a list worthy of THE RING, we felt due diligence was crucial. That meant exhaustive video research (which wasn't easy given a lack of network support, at least here in the United States), talking to experts and reading ringside reports.

The criteria we used are simple: Talent, level of competition, victories over top-level foes and impact on the sport.

Championships don't mean much in women's boxing, as the number of belts has diluted their value. And some titleholders defend their titles against opponents with just two or three fights. Titles are nice but not a factor here.

So here we go: the 10 best female boxers of all time.

1. LUCIA RIJKER

Record: 17-0 (14 KOs)
Years active: 1996-2004
World titles: Junior welterweight
Summary: Rijker had fewer than 20 professional boxing matches in a career that lasted less than a decade. But anyone who saw "The Dutch Destroyer" in the ring was witness to the most complete fighting machine in the history of women's boxing. Rijker had it all – skill, determination and a mean streak – and when her sport began to get some mainstream attention, people flocked to the Amsterdam native's side to hear her story. The big fights always eluded her, with the closest being a 2005 bout with Christy Martin that got scrapped due to a Rijker injury, but when you look at her short but impressive career, there is no question that she was something special.

2. REGINA HALMICH

Record: 54-1-1 (16 KOs)
Years active: 1994-2007
World titles: Junior flyweight and flyweight
Summary: The overall numbers are impressive enough but when you consider that she fought in the deepest divisions (108 and 112 pounds) in women's boxing at the time, it's not a surprise that the German is considered one of the greatest ever. When Halmich defeated Anissa Zamarron, Jill Matthews, Yvonne Caples, Daisy Lang, Elena Reid and Wendy Rodriguez, she was beating top-level opposition. And, for what it's worth, all but 10 of Halmich's fights were for world championships.

3. ANN WOLFE

Record: 24-1 (16 KOs)
Years active: 1998-2006
World titles: Junior middleweight, super middleweight and light heavyweight
Summary: If a prime Mike Tyson was the baddest man on the planet, Ann Wolfe was most certainly the baddest woman when she was wrecking opponents left and right. Faced with a comparable level of opposition as her rival Laila Ali, Wolfe left a different impression on her foes, one that ensured that they would never want to fight her again. The only one to beat Wolfe was Valerie Mahfood but Wolfe won the second and third fights in their trilogy. Her most memorable moment was her one-punch knockout of then-unbeaten Vonda Ward in 2004 that prompted Ali to steer clear of a fight fan's dream bout.

4. LAILA ALI

Record: 24-0 (21 KOs)
Years active: 1999-2007
World titles: Super middleweight and light heavyweight
Summary: The daughter of "The Greatest" clearly had the talent to be No. 1 here but a couple factors pushed the former two-division champion down the list. First, to a lot of observers, Ali may be remembered more for the fights that didn't happen than the ones that did. Namely, bouts with the likes of Ann Wolfe, Leatitia Robinson and Veronica Simmons. How would Ali have fared in those fights? She probably would've won at least two out of the three, with a Wolfe fight being a toss-up, but we'll never know. Plus, Ali's level of competition wasn't the greatest at 168 and 175 pounds. That's not Ali's fault but it's clear that in her era, the talent level dipped as the competitors got bigger.

5. HOLLY HOLM

Record: 33-2-3 (9 KOs)
Years active: 2002-2013
World titles: Junior welterweight, welterweight and junior middleweight
Summary: As All-American as apple pie, Holm was a franchise in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she packed venues and fought the best in the sport every time out. And even though winning multiple world titles in three weight classes is an impressive feat, what stands out about Holm is her 22-1-1 record in championship bouts against worthy opposition. Her resume includes Christy Martin, Mary Jo Sanders, Chevelle Hallback and Diana Prazak. She also avenged a knockout defeat to Anne Sophie Mathis and reigned at the top of the RING pound-for-pound list until her

retirement in 2013. The big fight with Cecilia Braekhus never materialized but that shouldn't impact Holm's boxing legacy as one of the best ever.

6. MARY JO SANDERS

Record: 25-1-1 (8 KOs)
Years active: 2003-2008
World titles: Junior welterweight, welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight
Summary: The daughter of former Detroit Lions tight end Charlie Sanders was an athlete from the start, whether it was track and field, basketball or gymnastics. She would make her name in boxing, though. And she made quite an impressive in just five years. How much of an impression? She was a dominating figure over three divisions, with wins over the likes of Layla McCarter, Chevelle Hallback, Melissa Del Valle and Valerie Mahfood. Sanders' success led to a pair of highly anticipated superfights with Holly Holm but she emerged with a loss and a draw and never fought again.

7. CECILIA BRAEKHUS

Record: 27-0 (7 KOs)
Years active: 2007-present
World titles: Welterweight
Summary: By the time Braekhus' career is over, it's possible that the Norwegian star could be at the top of this list. That's a testament to her boxing skills and dominance in the welterweight division. A champion since her 11th fight in 2009, Braekhus has turned back everyone she has faced as a pro. And the "First Lady" made history in 2014, as her win over Ivana Habazin made her the first female fighter to win all four major world titles (IBF, WBA, WBC and WBO). She didn't get the superfight against Holly Holm, which might've made her a bigger star, but her affiliation with Wladimir Klitschko's K2 Promotions may be her ticket to worldwide acclaim.

8. CHRISTY MARTIN

Record: 49-7-3 (31 KOs)
Years active: 1989-2012
World titles: Junior middleweight
Summary: Christy Martin's only world title came near the end of her career, when she defeated Dakota Stone in 2009, but that means little in terms of her overall accomplishments. Women's boxing wasn't even a thing when "The Coal Miner's Daughter" was in her prime, appearing on the cover of Sports Illustrated and fighting on Don King-promoted undercards. But what seemed to be a novelty to some was real for Martin and women's boxing. It's reasonable to suggest that the sport wouldn't be as far along if she had never fought. And though history will note her impact outside the ring, inside it the left hook-wielding Martin was a killer. No one could touch her until the women she inspired began catching up.

9. LAYLA MCCARTER

Record: 36-13-5 (8 KOs)
Years active: 1998-present
World titles: Featherweight, lightweight, junior welterweight and junior middleweight
Summary: McCarter is a throwback to an era when boxers didn't ask who they were fighting, just when. The problem was that few wanted to tangle with her. And who could blame them? The Las Vegan's technical acumen, honed through unwavering dedication, made her one of the best ever. Since her 2012 knockout of Noni Tenge – in South Africa at an unnatural 154 pounds, no less – McCarter has fought once officially, defeating fellow old-schooler Melissa Hernandez. The 36-year-old did put on the mitts for the Big Knockout Boxing promotion in April 2015, though, schooling and stopping Diana Prazak.

10. ALICIA ASHLEY

Record: 22-10-1 (4 KOs)
Years active: 1999-present
World titles: Bantamweight, junior featherweight and featherweight
Summary: If you're not a women's boxing aficionado or a regular reader of this column, you may not know who Ashley is. And that's fine with the Jamaican-born New Yorker, who seemingly goes out of her way to avoid the spotlight. In the ring, Ashley's hit-and-don't-get-hit style has paid off in victories over Alesia Graf, Elena Reid, Marcela Eliana Acuna and Kelsey Jeffries. It also has allowed her to still compete at 48 years old.

WOMEN'S POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS
Norway • 27-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. DELFINE PERSOON
Belgium • 33-1 (16 KOs)
Lightweight

3. JACKIE NAVA
Mexico • 32-4-3 (14 KOs)
Junior featherweight

4. JELENA MRDJENOVICH
Canada • 35-10-1 (19 KOS)
Featherweight

5. LAYLA MCCARTER
U.S. • 36-13-5 (8 KOs)
Lightweight

6. JESSICA CHAVEZ
Mexico • 23-4-3 (4 KOs)
Flyweight

7. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS
Argentina • 22-1 (10 KOs)
Junior welterweight

8. IBETH ZAMORA SILVA
Mexico • 24-5 (9 KOs)
Junior flyweight

9. DIANA PRAZAK
Australia • 13-3 (9 KOs)
Junior lightweight

10. AVA KNIGHT
U.S. • 13-2-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

Through fights of Oct. 11, 2015

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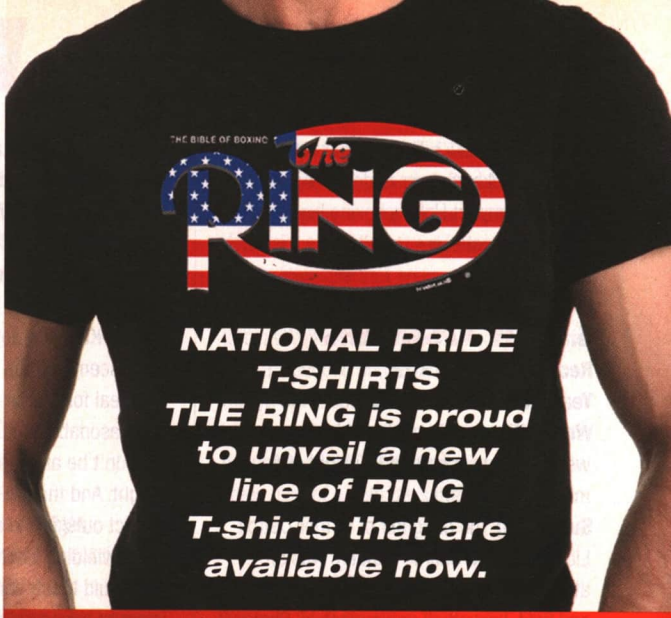

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NORM FRAUENHEIM

Lucas Matthysse (right) couldn't find a way to get to Viktor Postol.

VIKTOR POSTOL KO 10 LUCAS MATTHYSSE

Date: Oct. 3
Site: StubHub Center, Carson, Calif.
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Postol 139.4 pounds, Matthysse 139.4
RING ratings (before fight): Postol No. 7, Matthysse No. 1
Network: HBO

A photo of Viktor Postol in a swimming suit, right fist raised and an Olympic-sized pool behind him, appeared on social media a couple of months ago. He looked like another anonymous swimmer then, just another unknown guy lost in Michael Phelps' wake.

Postol doesn't quite have Phelps' celebrity now but the Ukrainian shed much of the anonymity, making a world-class splash in a dramatic upset of Lucas Matthysse.

The deep 140-pound pool just got a lot more dangerous with Postol, who had the skill, smarts and poise to drop Matthysse onto the canvas and perhaps out of contention.

"I can assure you this is not my last knockout," Postol (28-0, 12 KOs) said after landing a straight right that put Matthysse (37-4, 34 KOs) on all fours and unwilling or unable to beat referee Jack Reiss' count at 2:58 of the 10th round.

KOs can be elusive. Just ask Floyd Mayweather Jr. But Postol has ensured that he'll be in the junior welterweight championship mix for a while.

"Postol will be a force," his promoter, Bob Arum, said. "He's difficult to fight. Top Rank will have a lot of big fights for him."

The biggest might be the emerging and unbeaten Terence Crawford, who was scheduled for his second bout at 140 on Oct. 24 against Dierry Jean in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Crawford possibility didn't surprise Postol, who won the WBC's vacant 140-pound crown. He addressed it with the same kind of confidence he had before facing the feared Matthysse.

"I'm ready to fight him," Postol said after only his fourth fight in the United States. "Question is, is he ready to fight me?"

Best guess: Yes. Crawford presents a versatile set of tactical skills and an ability to adjust, unlike Matthysse, whose will appears to erode when the bout isn't a brawl or his power fails to overwhelm in the early going.

Against the skilled and taller Postol, it looked as if Matthysse got frustrated through the first five rounds, which included a lot of holding and Postol's reliance on a long jab. Matthysse fought with energy in the sixth and seventh, probably his best rounds. But no tactical adjustment was evident. Over the next two rounds, he began to wilt.

After the ninth, Postol led by one point on two cards and trailed by the same margin on the third. Enter trainer Freddie Roach.

"We told Viktor now is the time for a right uppercut," said Roach, who called the victory one of the best in his Hall of Fame career.

Matthysse, whose long night probably means he lost a chance at facing Manny Pacquiao in 2016, went down looking as if he had resigned himself to defeat. The Argentine warrior, who prevailed in wild brawls with Ruslan Provodnikov and John Molina, didn't get up.

He said he didn't because he felt something pop in his left eye.

It might have been the eye-popping performance he had just endured.

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

C ADONIS STEVENSON TKO 3 TOMMY KARPENCY

Sept. 11, Toronto (Spike)

Adonis Stevenson can't do anything without talking or hearing about Sergey Kovalev.

Kovalev is there, both in his conversation and – fans hope – in his future.

"C'mon Kovalev, it's time to fight," Stevenson (27-1, 22 KOs) told a Ricoh Coliseum crowd after a third-round stoppage of Pennsylvania light heavyweight Tommy Karpency (25-5-1, 14 KOs) in Toronto's first world-title fight in three decades.

Stevenson, who floored Karpency twice, calls himself Superman. Kovalev has another word for him ...

On Sept. 22 the RING champion celebrated another birthday, his 38th, without any talks toward a deal. Main Events, Kovalev's promoter, did wish him a happy one. Sort of. Through Vine, it sent Stevenson a video of somebody in a chicken suit wearing a cape and gloves. The costumed figure blows out candles on a cake, which then disappears to expose cherries. One of those cherries is presumably Karpency.

NO. 8 ORLANDO SALIDO D 12 NO. 3 ROMAN MARTINEZ

Sept. 12, Las Vegas (Showtime PPV)

The rematch was supposed to settle the argument. It didn't. It only created another one.

Orlando Salido and Roman Martinez have more to fight about than ever after a split draw in a junior lightweight bout on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Andre Berto card.

"I won," said Martinez (29-2-3, 17 KOs), who scored a decision over Salido in April.

Mexico's Salido (42-13-3, 29 KOs) was credited with a knockdown in the third. Martinez, of Puerto Rico, complained. Turns out, Martinez was right. Replay showed that Salido stepped on his foot.

Later in the third, Martinez scored a legit knockdown with a right. Salido was clearly hurt. But he survived and then managed to drag the fight into the kind of bruising exchanges he so often wins. He threw 1,037 punches. Martinez threw 691.

"I should have won," Salido said. "That's not fair."

Anybody for a trilogy?

NO. 7 JERMALL CHARLO TKO 3 NO. 6 CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE

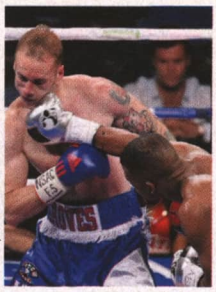
Sept. 12, Mashantucket, Conn. (NBC)

Jermall Charlo ended a long wait in a furious rush.

Charlo (22-0, 17 KOs), looking as if his patience had been exhausted by an 18-month wait for a title shot, knocked down Cornelius Bundrage (34-6, 19 KOs) four times in three rounds for the IBF's 154-pound championship.

"Sleep on me and get slept," Charlo said in a tweet after he left the 42-year-old Bundrage wondering whether he should have taken a nap instead of a bout with the aggressive twin of 154-pound contender Jermell.

A right put Bundrage down in the first. A jab put him there in the second. Early in the third, a succession of blows had him on the canvas all over again. Two minutes later, Bundrage was down once more, this time from a punch to the temple, prompting a stoppage of the bout and Charlo's waiting game.



NO. 6 BADOU JACK SD 12 NO. 3 GEORGE GROVES

Sept. 12, Las Vegas (Showtime PPV)

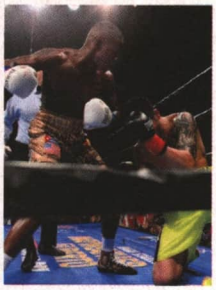
Meet Badou Jack, who was born in Stockholm, represented Gambia in the Olympics and lives in Las Vegas. He has a world-class passport. World-class record, too.

Jack stamped that record with legitimacy in scoring a split decision over George Groves in the first defense of his WBC 168-pound title.

"Should have knocked him out," Jack (20-1-1, 12 KOs) said.

It looked as if he might after landing a right that dropped Groves in the first round. But Groves (21-3, 16 KOs) is nothing if not resilient. U.K. fans don't call him Saint George because he quits. He turned it into a grind-it-out, hard-to-score affair, then stormed out of the ring when the split cards – 116-111, 115-112, 113-114 – were announced.

Jack talked about Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Lucian Bute in the aftermath. In a rematch, however, he would have the opportunity to do what he says he should have on Sept. 12.



NO. 3 PETER QUILLIN KO 5 MICHAEL ZERAFA

Sept. 12, Mashantucket, Conn. (NBC)

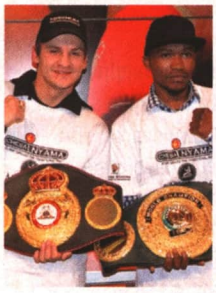
Mismatches are more than unpopular. They're dangerous. That danger was evident all over again in middleweight Peter Quillin's fifth-round knockout of Michael Zerafa in a PBC bout.

Quillin (32-0-1, 23 KOs) threw a right that landed like a rifle shot, sending Zerafa (17-2, 9 KOs) onto the canvas in a lifeless heap at 1:06 of the fifth round. Zerafa's eyes were vacant. Arthur Mercante Jr. bypassed the count in an effort to let the paramedics get Zerafa onto a stretcher as fast as possible.

Quillin didn't celebrate. What he and an NBC audience had seen was too scary.

"That's not the way I want to finish," said Quillin, scheduled to face Daniel Jacobs on Dec. 5. "I want to pray he gets well and gets back home to Australia."

Zerafa did regain consciousness. What remains are questions about why the mismatch was allowed.



NO. 1 HEKKIE BUDLER
UD 12 **SIMPHIWE KHONCO**

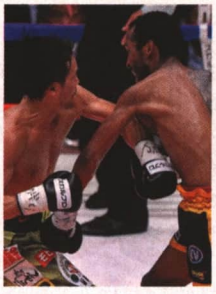
Sept. 19, Kempton Park, South Africa (Super Sport 7)

His nickname makes you think you're about to see a giant. But "The Hexecutioner," otherwise known as Hekkie Budler, is 5-foot-3 and wears a size-6 shoe.

He says his pet iguanas, Lou and Lula, measure 6 feet each – longer than he is tall.

He might get lost in a crowd yet few stand as tall as he does in the ring. Budler's star continued to grow with a 117-111, 116-112, 115-113 decision over fellow South African Simphiwe Khonco in a fourth defense of his 105-pound title, boxing's lightest weight class.

Budler (29-1, 9 KOs) overcame a bad cut over his left eye in the second round to prevail over a surprising Khonco (15-5, 7 KOs), who had no counter and not enough energy to resist Budler's persistent pressure during the later rounds.



NO. 1 SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
SD 12 **NO. 3 ANSELMO MORENO**

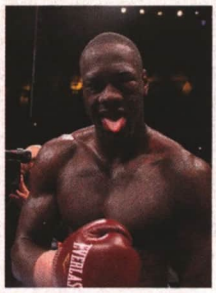
Sept. 22, Tokyo (NTV/ Japan)

It was dubbed "God's left versus God's eye." It could have been a draw made in heaven. But it wasn't.

Shinsuke Yamanaka's left hand might be blessed with power and precision but it was his jab that allowed him to escape with a split decision over Anselmo Moreno, who is blessed with vision that allows him to anticipate and feet that make him elusive.

"I am relieved to win," Yamanaka told Japanese media after an awkward battle between southpaws for the WBC title.

Yamanaka (24-0-2, 17 KO), hurt by a right in the ninth, also was fortunate. Location, location, location – in this case Yamanaka's hometown – might've had something to do with the narrowest of victories. He won 115-113 on two cards. On the third it was 115-113 in favor of Moreno (35-4-1, 12 KOs), who appeared to tire in the final rounds.



NO. 2 DEONTAY WILDER
TKO 11 **JOHANN DUHAUPAS**

Sept. 26, Birmingham, Ala. (NBC)

Deontay WIlder's career is beginning to resemble one long test drive. Wladimir Klitschko is the only destination.

Is Wilder ready? Can he ever be?

There were no answers in Wilder's TKO victory at 55 seconds of the 11th round over Johann Duhaupas, who was an unknown heavyweight before the opening bell and won't be remembered for more than the beating he endured.

Wilder (35-0, 34 KOs) landed punches of every variety yet he couldn't knock down Duhaupas (32-3, 20 KOs). Nobody has. The Frenchman fought as if he knew that was his only consolation. He paid in blood and bruises, although he left Wilder with a welt of his own. A jab put one under his left eye.

It was a visible reminder that Wilder can be hit. A warning, too, of what might happen if Klitschko or mandatory challenger Alexander Povetkin delivers the blow.

NO. 8 VICTOR RAMIREZ
D 12 **OVILL MCKENZIE**

Oct. 2, Buenos Aires (Box Nation)

He calls himself "The Upsetter."

That's not because Ovill McKenzie suffers from a queasy stomach, although there was some indigestion after scorecards left him with a split draw against IBF cruiserweight champion Victor Ramirez.

McKenzie promoter Frank Warren was so upset that he asked the IBF for an immediate rematch. The scores were 115-113 for McKenzie, 115-113 for Ramirez and 114-114.

It was expected to be an easy night for Ramirez (22-2-1, 17 KOs), who was supposed to fight Yoan Pablo Hernandez but the RING champ withdrew because of an injury. McKenzie, a Jamaican living in the U.K., filled in, taking the title bout on 11 days' notice.

"Normally it's two days," McKenzie (25-12-1, 13 KOs) told the Telegraph. "That's why my record is the way it is."

NO. 5 ADRIEN BRONER
TKO 12 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**

Oct. 3, Cincinnati (Showtime)

The AB in Adrien Broner's nickname has come to stand for many things. There's always a new Broner, or at least an attempt at one.

The latest one showed up against Khabib Allakhverdiev. Call this AB "Another Beginning."

At junior welterweight, Broner (31-2, 23 KOs) showed the promise he had before losses to Marcos Maidana and Shawn Porter. He weighed 138.5, his lightest since 2013. In a TKO of Allakhverdiev (19-2, 9 KOs) at 2:41 of the 12th, he averaged 57 punches a round, 11 more than in six prior fights.

Floyd Mayweather Jr., Broner told Showtime, "feels like he's got a fighter who can beat me. I think his name is Ashley (Theophane). Put Ashley on one of your private jets, bring him to come see me and I bet I bring the girl out of that boy like Bruce Jenner."

Well, maybe AB hasn't changed that much.

STEVENSON: VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES; SALIDO: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES; CHARLO/QUILLIN BILLIE WEISS/GETTY IMAGES; JACK: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; BUDLER: ANNETTE VAN SCHALKWYK; YAMANAKA: KOKI NAGAHAMA/GETTY IMAGES; WILDER: DAVID A. SMITH/GETTY IMAGES; RAMIREZ: SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES; BRONER: DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND BRIAN HARTY

NOVEMBER

MIGUEL COTTO VS. CANELO ALVAREZ

Date: Nov. 21
Location: Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas
Division: Middleweight (for Cotto's RING and WBC titles) (155-pound catchweight)
TV: HBO Pay-Per-View
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Takashi Miura vs. Francisco Vargas, junior lightweights (for Miura's WBC title); Randy Caballero vs. Lee Haskins, bantamweights (for Caballero's IBF title); Jayson Velez vs. Ronny Rios, featherweights.
Significance: Cotto (40-4, 33 KOs) has reinvented himself since joining forces with trainer Freddie Roach – including a KO of Sergio Martinez to win his titles – but can he stand up to the younger, naturally bigger Alvarez (45-1-1, 32 KOs)? The oddsmakers suggest he won't.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Alvarez KO 9; Fischer – Alvarez UD; Harty – Alvarez KO 10

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. TYSON FURY

Date: Nov. 28
Location: ESPRIT Arena, Dusseldorf, Germany
Division: Heavyweight (for Klitschko's RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles)
TV: HBO, RTL
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Cecilia Braekhus vs. Ramona Kuehne, welterweights
Significance: Klitschko (64-3, 53 KOs) faces his most interesting foe since David Haye in 2011. Fury (24-0, 18 KOs) doesn't have exceptional ability but he's big (6-foot-9), talks up a storm and just wins, although this is a big step up in competition. Klitschko has 18 straight successful title defenses.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Klitschko KO 4; Fischer – Klitschko KO 8; Harty – Klitschko KO 10

NOV. 20 – Gilberto Ramirez vs. Gevorg Khatchikian, super middleweights, Las Vegas (truTV).
NOV. 21 – Darleys Perez vs. Anthony Crolla, lightweights (for Perez's WBA title), Manchester, England.
NOV. 21 – Arthur Abraham vs. Martin Murray, super middleweights (for Abraham's WBO title), Hannover, Germany.
NOV. 24 – Wanheng Menayothin vs. Youg Gil Bae, strawweights (for Menayothin's WBC title), Bangkok, Thailand.
NOV. 28 – James DeGale vs. Lucian Bute, super middleweights, Quebec City, Canada.
NOV. 28 – Pedro Guevara vs. Yu Kimura, junior flyweights, Sendai, Japan. Also, Carlos Cuadras vs. Koki Eto, junior bantamweights, and Takahiro Ao vs. Gamaliel Diaz, lightweights.
NOV. 28 – Milan Melindo vs. TBA, junior flyweights, Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines. Also, Arthur Villanueva vs. TBA, junior bantamweights.
NOV. 28 – Mikaela Lauren vs. Jennifer Retzke, junior middleweights (for Lauren's WBC title), Sweden

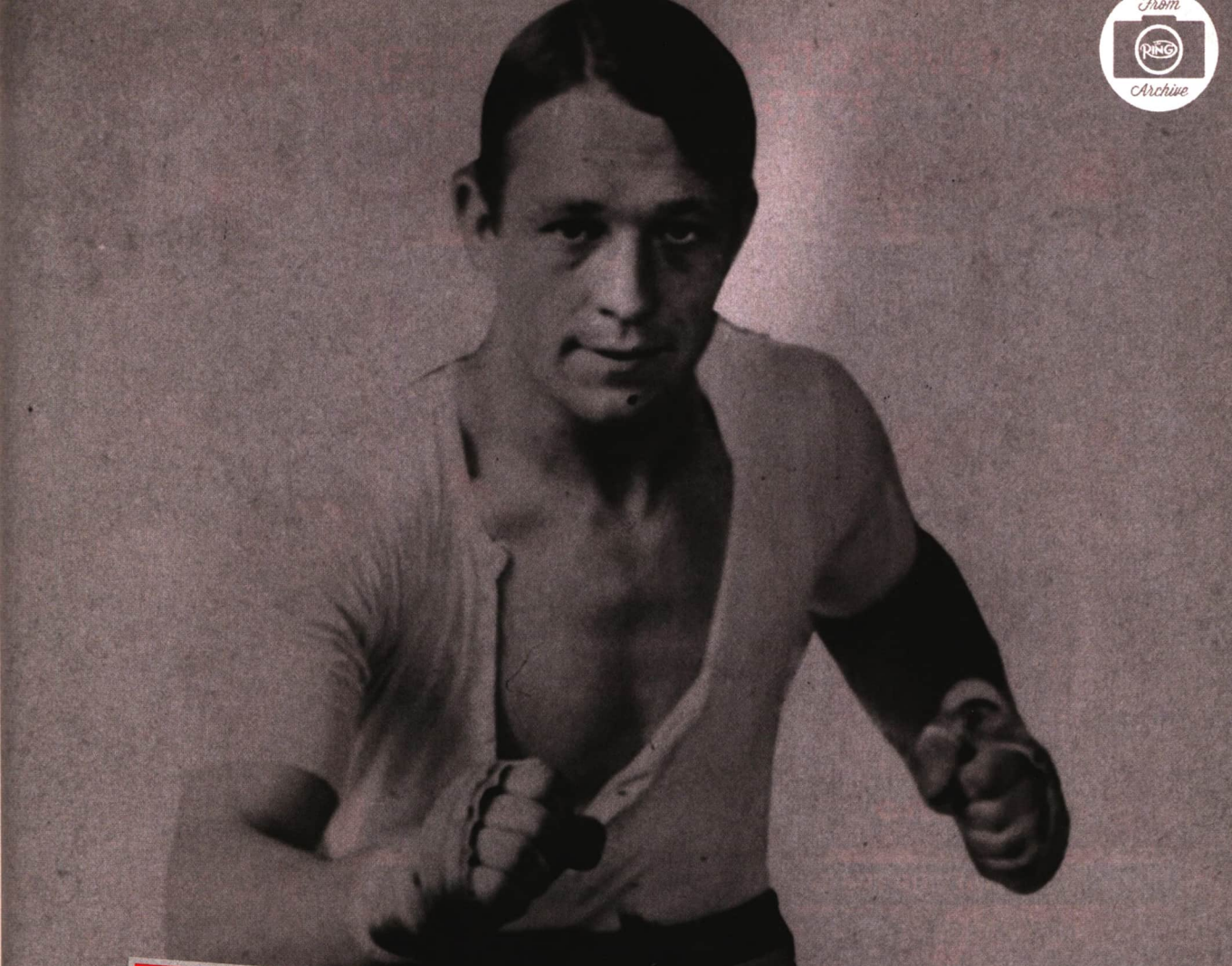
DECEMBER

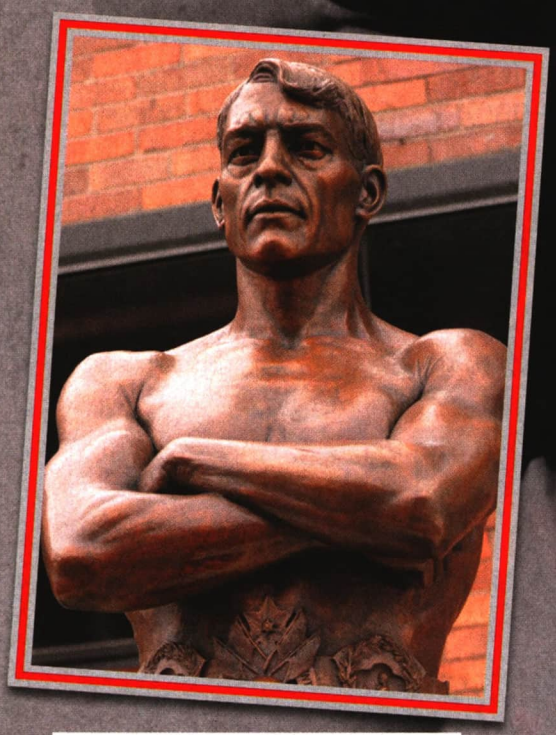
DANIEL JACOBS VS. PETER QUILLIN

Date: Dec. 5
Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Middleweights
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Denis Shafikov vs. Rances Barthelemy, lightweights (for vacant IBF title); Jesus Cuellar vs. Jonathan Oquendo, featherweights.
Significance: One of these fighters will make a statement. Jacobs (30-1, 27 KOs) is stepping up in quality of opposition. Quillin (32-0-1, 23 KOs) has lost his momentum. He is coming off a draw to Andy Lee and a KO over journeyman Michael Zerafa.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Quillin UD; Fischer – Quillin KO 10; Harty – Quillin KO 7

DEC. 12 – Anthony Joshua vs. Dillian Whyte, heavyweights, London (Sky).
DEC. 12 – Nicholas Walters vs. TBA, junior lightweights (HBO)
DEC. 19 – Andy Lee vs. Billy Joe Saunders, middleweights (for Lee's WBO title), Manchester, England

Daniel Jacobs (left) will face Peter Quillin in a high-profile middleweight fight on Dec. 5.





A statue of middleweight great Stanley Ketchel was unveiled on Oct. 2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A LEGEND LIVES ON

They haven't forgotten Stanley Ketchel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, his birthplace. A striking 7-foot statue of the great middleweight (left) was unveiled on Oct.2 on the west side of the city as part of the Grand Rapids Community Legends project. Ketchel is considered one of the most fearsome fighters of all time, which is reflected in the work of sculptor Ann Hirsch. "There's a bit of Superman in him," Hirsch told mlive.com. "… Ketchel tested himself and stood his ground. I hope you see some of those things in him." Ketchel's is a story of glory and tragedy. "The Michigan Assassin" became the world middleweight champion only five years into his professional career, laying waste to many great fighters along the way. He even went after heavyweight champ Jack Johnson in spite of a significant weight disparity, ending up down and out in the 12th round. Some consider him the greatest middleweight champ ever. And he presumably could've accomplished much more. Ketchel (51-4-4, 48 KOs) was only 24 when he was murdered at a ranch near Conway, Missouri, 1910. His memory lives on in Hirsch's statue.

#ATTHEFIGHTS

By **Lamar Clark**

FOR BOXING AFICIONADOS ONLY

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

WHO WINS? **COMMENT ON INSTAGRAM @ RINGTV!** #ATTHEFIGHTS

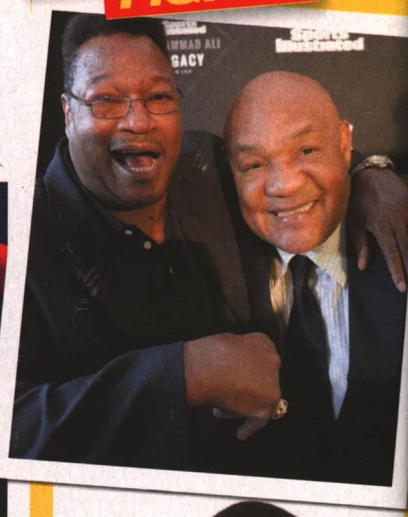
Hector Camacho

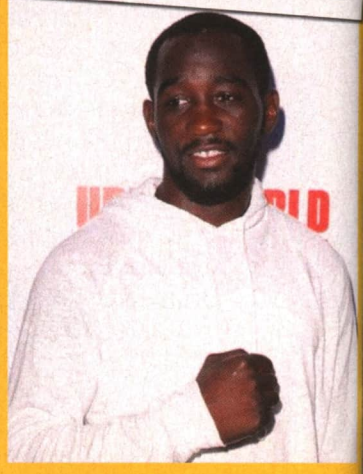
VS.

Danny Garcia

TALE OF THE TAPE ★ WELTERWEIGHT		
MAY 24, 1962	**BORN**	MARCH 20, 1988
BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO	**BIRTHPLACE**	PHILADELPHIA
"MACHO"	**ALIAS**	"SWIFT"
SOUTHPAW	**STANCE**	ORTHODOX
79-6-3 (38 KOs)	**RECORD**	31-0-0 (18 KOs)
43 PERCENT	**KO PERCENTAGE**	58 PERCENT
69 INCHES	**REACH**	68½ INCHES

STYLES MAKE FIGHTS





At top, Larry Holmes (left) and George Foreman attended the Sports Illustrated Tribute to Muhammad Ali in October. Above, Terence Crawford was at the premiere of the documentary "Ali: The People's Champ" in September.

FOREMAN/HOLMES: STEPHEN COHEN/GETTY IMAGES FOR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED; CRAWFORD: BENNETT RAGLIN/GETTY IMAGES

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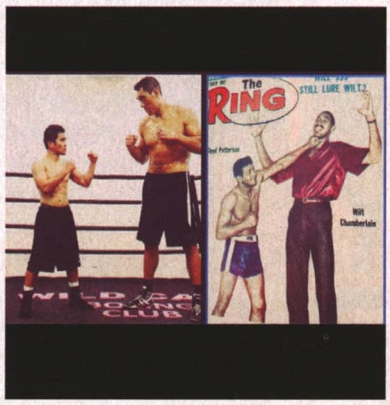

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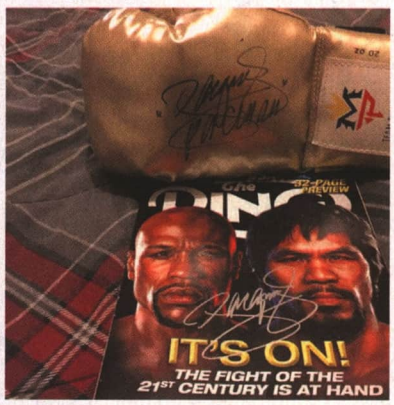

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